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STEAM CULTIVATION.

BY COL. C. W. SALADER, OF PADUCAH, KY.
NO. VII.

ED. VALLEY FARMER: Having now presented your great army of readers with a full and complete description of the peculiar system of steam cultivation which I advocate as practical, methinks I hear each and every one of them ask: "But, will it pay, sir—will it pay?" For this or any other project "to be or not to be," that provoking "Will it pay, sir?" is the question. It is the question which inevitably comes at last, to set the seal of success or the brand of failure upon all worldly contrivances; and my own, not being an exception to this general rule, it is of course expected of me to make a halt at this point, face the question and answer it fairly.

I feel somewhat relieved in closing this series of papers, by the reflection that this my last article shall be devoted to that branch of the subject under consideration, most easily to be

comprehended when reduced to figures; and in that of having, as I believe, the pleasurable satisfaction of showing that Steam Cultivation, properly systemized, *Will Pay*.

Now, as to the cost of arranging the farm or plantation, and providing it with the requisite machinery:—From the best information I have been able to gather, the cost of building such station house and of new fencing to enclose 400 acres in the manner described, will not exceed \$1,000, and to have the work done in the best possible manner. This would include a brick or frame station house of a large and substantial character.

The machinery, consisting of steam plow engine, rotary plows, harrow, and seeding arrangements, also the reaping and mowing attachment, one force pump for the station well, to be operated by the engine, one portable blacksmith's forge and tools, circular saw and frame, and one improved threshing machine, also to be operated by the engine, will cost \$5,350; so that for \$6,350, you can arrange a farm or plantation with 400 acres of tillable land—or, for \$7,350 with 800 acres two station houses, and furnish it with a set of machinery that will do all the work upon the place to which steam in any form can be applied.

In making this estimate, however, the cost of fencing should not be taken into account, for the reason that this new system of cultivation does not demand or require any more fencing than is thought necessary upon the old system of farming; but on the contrary it requires less fencing to the acre. The larger the farms, the less fencing to the acre; so that the extensive system here proposed cannot be chargeable with an unusual amount of fencing

—but, I repeat, is a positive saving in this respect.

Therefore, in attempting to get at the actual extra cost of establishing a Steam Plow Farm, the fencing cannot be admitted, only so far as tearing down and re-building of them upon the old farms is concerned. Thus, it would appear that we have for every 400 or 500 acres—

I well and station house,	\$500.00
Machinery as above,	5,350.00

Total of, say, 500 acres,	\$5,850.00
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Or do. 800 or 1000 acres,	\$6,350.00
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So much, then, for the cost of preparing to farm by steam. Now let us look at the results.

First, then, let us see what the act of plowing alone per day or acre, will cost under the new system. Such a farm will have one man capable of taking charge of the machinery, and who may, at the same time, have the general oversight of the place, and whose duty it shall be to engineer and guide the machine while at work in the field. Such a man may be had for \$24 per month. The boy who fires the engine, \$8 per month; and the third hand who attends to the raising and lowering of the plows, \$12 per month. The engine will consume twenty-three bushels of coal per day of ten hours, at say fifteen cents per bushel. Tax, interest on the investment of \$5,850 or \$6,350, and wear and tear of the machinery, must also be taken into the account.

Recapitulation—cost of one day's work.

3 men required to handle the machine,	\$1.72
Board for same,	.75
23 bushels coal, at 15 cents,	3.45
Interest, tax, wear and tear,	2.00

Total cost for 1 days work by machine, \$7.92

This will turn up 15 acres at 12 inches deep, making the cost per acre 52½ cents.

The operation of sowing the seed, rolling and harrowing, can be performed, when required, at the same time of doing the plowing, and at the same cost as if plowing alone.

Cost per Acre by Old System of Plowing.

1 plowman, 1 day, say,	0.37½
Board for same,	0.25
Team, interest, tax, wear and tear,	0.62½

Total cost per acre, \$1.25

This will turn up two acres at 3½ to 5 inches deep, at a cost of 62½ cents per acre. So that by the old system of plowing it will cost at the lowest possible estimate, 62½ cents per acre at from 3½ to 5 inches deep, while the steam plowing cost 10 cents per acre less, at 12 inches deep.

But I shall now demand of the old system to plow at the same depth as by the new—say 12 inches. To do this, you require two men, two teams, one plow and one sub-soiler. Now, if so be two acres can be plowed in one day by this force, the cost of doing it will be \$2.50, or \$1.25 per acre; thus costing 72½ cents, or about 120 per cent. per acre more than that done by the steam plow.

Now that we have got the cost of plowing alone, by the old system at 12 inches deep, let us add the cost per acre of harrowing, sowing the seed and harrowing it in. What can this be done for? 75 cents. Very well. Now add this to the cost of plowing, and we find it costs you exactly \$2 per acre to prepare the ground 12 inches deep and put in the seed, say wheat, oats, rye, &c., or \$1.47½ more than it will cost to do the same by steam.

In the foregoing estimate, be pleased to observe, that the highest possible rates have been placed to the account of expenses of the steam plow, while the lowest possible figures are placed to the account of the old system of doing the same work. It is hardly probable, indeed, that the work can be done by the old system, at the extremely low rates placed to its account. But admit it can, and the fact still remains that, on the new system, the work is done at from 100 to over 200 per cent. cheaper than it can possibly be done on the old system; and in point of quality the work is 100 per cent. better. For it is literally impossible to give the soil such a perfect condition and so complete a pulverization as this rotary system will impart to it—therefore the additional quantity of crops produced to the acre, as the result of this perfect condition of the soil, must also be taken into the account. The certainty also of making a crop every season, by means of the depth of cultivation we are enabled by this system to give the soil, is another point in favor of the new system, of such obvious importance as to make any further mention of it unnecessary.

But the advantages of this system of steam cultivation does not end here. In the prairie wheat growing regions, that staple of the Great West can positively be made by steam, from the plowing of the ground to the threshing and cleaning of the grain ready for market.

Here, then, allow me the privilege of making another comparison between the old and new systems of producing the small grains—say wheat. Can you, brother farmer, of the wheat growing regions, produce a bushel of wheat year after year, for less than 25 cents, ready for market? I am sure you can not.

Now, by the new system of farming under consideration, wheat can be produced at from 8 to 11½ cents per bushel.

We have already seen that we can prepare the ground and put in the wheat at 52½ cents per acre. The same machine will, by the use of its reaping attachment, cut down 55 acres of grain in one day, which is done at the same cost as plowing per day—\$7.92½, or about 14 cents per acre.

Recapitulation.

Cost of putting in wheat per acre,	0.52½
Cutting same by steam,	0.14
Cost of binding and shocking per acre, say	1.00
Total cost per acre,	\$1.66½

Now, how many bushels of wheat ought one acre of good prairie land to produce, when cultivated in the deep and thorough manner described? Ought not from 25 to 30 bushels be produced? No? Then, say 20 bushels. Now allow 3 cents per bushel for threshing and cleaning by steam, which would be at the rate of 60 cents per acre—twenty bushels—which add to the above \$1.66½, and the total cost per acre of wheat cleaned ready for market, will be \$2.26½, or about 11½ cents per bushel.

But am I met at this point with the objection, that I am basing the operations of the steam plow and the peculiar arrangement of the farm upon a single day? If so, I fancy the objector will attempt to figure against me somewhat after this fashion:

Now, sir, according to your showing for one day's operations, how do you stand in the account for one year? Why, sir, you make the cost of your machinery, three hands to operate it, &c., for one year, \$1,642, as follows:

Interest on \$6,350, tax, wear and tear at	
\$2 per day, 1 year,	\$730
1000 bushels coal at 15 cents, 1 year,	150
3 hands to manage machine, at \$24, \$12	
and \$8, 1 year,	528
Board at \$1.50 per week, each, 1 year,	234
Total,	\$1,642

This is, of course, admitted. But, my good friend, be pleased to remember that this machinery, with the peculiar arrangement of the farm, and the three hands, will perform an amount of labor equivalent to 20 first-class farm hands—say nothing of the saving of animal power. Now suppose you can hire 20 hands on a farm or plantation of 1000 acres at the low wages of \$10 per month, and pray, sir, how do you stand in the account for one year? Why, sir, you make the cost of this amount of labor for one year, \$3,960, as follows, viz:

20 hands, at \$10 per month,	\$2,400
Board for same, 1 year, at \$1.50 per week,	1,560
Total,	\$3,960

Now deduct your figures against the new system for one year, from those I have produced for the use of twenty hands for the same time, and you shall see how I stand in the account for one year:

Hire and maintenance of 20 hands,	\$3,960
Cost of doing the work of 20 hands by steam,	1,642
In favor of the new system,	\$2,318
or about 141 per cent.	

But I am told that this calculation is erroneous from the fact, that according to my own statement, the average work of the machine is but 15 acres per day; that 20 men can certainly plow more than 15 acres? Let us see about that.

I have started out upon the basis of doing the work, as it is required to be done, not merely skinning and bruising over the surface of the soil 3 or 4 inches deep, but to work it at the depth of 12 inches at least. Now, I have already shown, that to plow at this depth upon the old plan, it requires two men and two teams to plow two acres in one day, or 16 men and 15 teams to plow 15 acres. Let each team stand for one man, which I believe is customary, and you will find it requires 30 men in place of 20 to prepare the same quantity of ground at a depth of 12 inches. And, finally, suppose you take 10 men and 10 teams (equivalent to 20 men), and let them plow in the usual old way, say from 3½ to 5 inches deep, how many acres will they plow? 20? Yes. "Then is that not making what is equivalent to 20 men plow five acres more per day than is credited to the steam plow?" say you. Certainly. But if you will allow me to plow at the same depth (3½ to 5 inches) the steam plow will work over a surface of from 32 to 40 acres per day. And, here again, let us compare the cost of doing this shallow sort of plowing, and how do we stand? We have seen that it costs 62½ cents per acre for plowing at this depth under the old system; but, under the new system, from 32 to 40 acres can be plowed in one day at a cost of \$7.92½—24½ cents per acre, or about 140 per cent. less than the same can be done by the old system.

There is much more to be said in favor of the economy of steam cultivation, which the growing length of this article forbids. I am warned, therefore, to be brief. I cannot close,

however, without acknowledging the great obligations I am under to the Editor of the *Valley Farmer*, for the very liberal space he has so kindly devoted to the publication of my long series of papers. Nor can I part with its great multitude of readers, with whom I have had so long (and may I hope interesting) an interview, without a like acknowledgement, for the kind attention I feel warranted they have bestowed upon these articles. And "when the tide of time comes right," may the hope I cherish be not in vain, that they may yet all live to witness the *Success and Glorious Triumphs of STREAM CULTIVATION!* *Ashland Farm, Ky.*

Pulverizing the Soil.

This is a subject now considerably agitated. The soil was pulverized instead of manured in former days. By one of the ancients it was discovered that manure answered the same purpose. Since then there has been more manuring and less stirring of the soil. We generally plow to get our seed in; not to manure (pulverize) the ground. That is seldom thought of though sometimes practiced in gardens and cornfields. There is also a practice with some of the Eastern farmers to thoroughly cultivate their fallows. Experience has demonstrated the benefit. But a thorough, scientific pulverization of the soil, allowing the frost, sun, wind and rain, as well as the plow and harrow; to mix and mellow it; this is rarely done; and yet this is the true method. The ground must be a body of homogeneous matter; not lumpy, even in the finest lumps; for these are fine brickbats and tenebrous of their fertility. When made mellow (we know no other word); it will then be subject to action, susceptible of motion, so that the ground, or rather the gases, may be said to be in a sort of fluid state, a homogeneous whole, instead of being bottled up in separate compartments, impossible of access by the roots. Wet plowing always brings on this hurtful condition. The best time for mellowing the soil by mechanical action, is a day or two after a summer rain. When too dry, the ground is rigid; when melted, so to speak, by the rain, till it crumbles, the fertilizing principle is let loose, held now by the body, and not by the particles of the soil. Then the roots will luxuriate in this fluid-like body. But as we find soil generally, it is a harsh affair, and vegetation finds it difficult often to get a foothold. Natural soil is too firm, as it has been compacting for thousands of years. If rich, the fluid fertility will make

it less hard; but the mechanical, aided by the frost, sun, rain, &c., and by manure, which acts chemically—these are the things to prepare the soil.

To Eradicate Canada Thistles.

This pest can be treated successfully. It is done in many parts of the country. It is performed by some through the influence of the moon, by cutting in the last quarter of that luminary, in July or August. The testimony of very excellent men (who should know better) corroborates this. Salt also destroys them when sufficient is applied and kept applied. So with lime, ashes, and many other things. Anything that will destroy vegetation, will destroy thistles.

But there is one more plan which will use up thistles; and that is the most laborious, and we are sorry to say, the only practical one. Salt is expensive, and will unfit the soil for immediate use; and so with every other thing you wish to apply, beginning with brine and ending with aquafortis. The innocent moon has never killed anything, and is guilty of only raising and depressing fluids, and giving light to lovers. Her faint light in the last quarter has little that is destructive, no more than in preventing fence posts from rotting—a thing attributed to her influence.

But the practicable plan. It is to plow them dead. We have cleaned whole fields that were infected, by three plowings, beginning in June and ending in August, doing the second plowing in July. But the field was sod, which makes a difference. Otherwise it requires more plowing. Thistles choked by the grass are more easily eradicated; they are less rank and hardy. This is our experience.

The best way to mitigate the evil, which is most that people generally expect to do, is to cut them when the stalk is large and hollow, especially when the crop is a heavy one, shading the ground and preventing any undershoots. This is a very effectual mode of getting the upper hand, and sometimes pretty nearly cleaning out the evil. We speak from positive experience in this case as well as the other. The hollow stubble receives the rain and dew of the atmosphere and rots.

Papering a room makes it much warmer than is generally imagined. Paper is a powerful resistant (non-conductor) of heat, and consequently of cold. A single papering will save you a cord or two of wood through the year.

PORTABLE ENGINES.

An exchange has the following good remarks: It is astonishing how mankind in general, and farmers in particular, obstinately adhere to the traditions and usages of the past. We allude at this particular time to the substitution of machinery for hand labor. While agricultural implements of all kinds are having a fair trial, we think it not amiss to say a word here in favor of the power that drives these machines: that much-abused animal the horse. We have assumed, broadly, that in most instances the horse furnishes the motive power. This assertion is, we believe, the fact in the case; and it is a state of things which might be changed for the better by the adoption of the steam engine. A machine of this class can be had for about the same price that a pair of first-rate horses will cost; with the advantage that it has, stored up within its brass and iron muscles, the force of three teams; and that it never tires as flesh and blood does.

Not only is this true, but the cost of keeping a pair of horses and that of running a steam engine of two-horse power, is not to be compared for an instant. For it must be recollected that the engine will do the work in half the time required by an animal; that it consumes only when actually at work; and is not "eating its own head off" when the earth produces nothing and man rests from the labor of summer.

It is our opinion that in every instance where a stationary power can be employed, steam will be found preferable to any other that is used for farming purposes. With the same degree of intelligence that will keep a pair of horses from being ruined, or injured in body and health, the steam engine can be run and kept in order; and as the latter can be wheeled from place to place, there are but few localities where it could not be advantageously introduced. In rocky and hilly countries, in new land—where stumps spread out their roots, and neither use the ground themselves, nor permit the farmer to do so—the steam engine, aided by the proper tools, would soon subdue these intractable obstacles, and clear the way for the seed that comes after.

We think it would be a profitable speculation for some enterprising farmer to introduce a portable engine to his neighborhood, and let it out to his neighbors at a nominal price, so that its practical advantages would be manifested to the most prejudiced person. We are not so enthusiastic as some on this subject; we do not foresee the time when every farmer shall have

his portable engine, just as certainly as they all have churns; for such a state of things would be unadvisable. But we do think that for all the rough work about a farm (and of this there is plenty), steam power would be much more efficient and economical than any other in use: and we hope to see sufficient enterprise manifested to enable us to chronicle the advent of many more engines than there are at present on the large farms about the country.

Treatment of Meadows.

We yesterday visited the meadow of a friend. Half of it had been covered with manure in the winter, and spread early this spring. The grass is Timothy. It does one good to see the difference. That part covered with manure was taller than the rest, and thicker on the ground. The heads were as long again and much plumper. It seemed as if a line had been drawn far as the manure went. The Timothy on this part of the field was two weeks earlier than the rest.

There was another field adjoining, where ashes had been used; dry, unleached wood ashes. The owner did not say how much to the acre was sowed, but probably several barrels: this we infer from circumstances. This field was equally good with the one manured; though the soil also was better. Last year a ripe crop of Timothy was taken from this lot. This year it was cut green. We shall see whether there will be a failure next year, as the stalks were quite green when cut. Some of the Timothy belonging to our friend spoken of in the commencement of this article, has been cut later. We have, therefore, a chance to determine the new theory of Dr. Kirtland.

The soil in the one case (that of the manure dressing), was a dry, yellow loam, with considerable sand and gravel, not very rich. The field dressed with ashes, is a rich, black, sandy loam, but for many years has been under severe cultivation, with insufficient manure. For 60 years it has been under the plow, with now and then a crop of grass.

HAY CARS.—The wet weather in many parts of the country will remind the people of hay cars. Much hay has been spoiled, and in these wet localities little good cured hay has been secured. The hay-car would have greatly helped the hay. Why cannot farmers experiment with a few cars? The expense and trouble are certainly trifling. They will then learn a lesson when the weather is wet. Try the cloth.

[Written for the Valley Farmer.]

LOAMY SOILS.

Our tillable soils are, in a very large proportion, of a loamy character, and for general purposes they are much the best soils that we have. The term loam, is rather indefinite, and seems not to be generally well understood. The proper classification of soils is very important, and it is essential that agriculturists should understand the terms used, else our communications are liable to be rendered valueless from misapprehension.

Loam, is a term in very common use, and although indefinite, we cannot avoid its use, because we have nothing better to supply its place. Hence the importance of understanding its meaning.

According to Webster, loam is "a natural mixture of sand and clay with oxide of iron; a species of earth or soil of different colors."

Ure's Dictionary of Arts, Manufactures and Mines, says it is "a native clay mixed with quartz sand and iron ochre, and occasionally with some carbonate of lime."

Gardner's Farmer's Dictionary says, "a very vague term, meaning a good soil, neither too light nor too stiff, and generally containing a large proportion of vegetable matter and clay."

* * "This word is often improperly written *loom*, and applied to a friable rich soil, containing much decaying vegetable matter."

Prof. Johnston has given the best and most definite arrangement, which is generally adopted as a standard:

"1°. *Pure clay* (pipe clay) consisting of about 60 of silica and 40 of alumina and oxide of iron, for the most part chemically combined. It allows no silicious sand to subside when diffused through water, and rarely forms any extent of soil.

"2°. *Strongest clay soil* (tile-clay, unctuous clay) consists of pure clay mixed with 5 to 15 per cent. of a silicious sand, which can be separated from it by boiling and decantation.

"3°. *Clay loam* differs from a clay soil, in allowing from 15 to 30 per cent. of fine sand to be separated from it by washing, as above described. By this admixture of sand, its parts are mechanically separated, and hence its freer and more friable nature.

"4°. A *loamy soil* deposits from 30 to 60 per cent. of sand, by mechanical washing.

"5°. A *sandy loam* leaves from 60 to 90 per cent. of sand, and

"6°. A *sandy soil* contains no more than ten per cent. of pure clay.

The mode of examining, with the view of naming soils, as above, is very simple. It is only necessary to spread a weighed quantity of the soil in a thin layer upon writing paper, and to dry it for an hour or two in an oven or upon a hot plate, the heat of which is not suffi-

cient to discolor the paper—the loss of weight gives the water it contained. While this is drying, a second weighed portion may be boiled or otherwise thoroughly incorporated with water, and the whole then poured into a vessel, in which the heavy sandy parts are allowed to subside until the fine clay is beginning to settle also. This point must be carefully watched, the liquid then poured off, the sand collected, dried as before upon paper, and again weighed. This weight is the quantity of sand in the known weight of moist soil, which by the previous experiment has been found to contain a certain quantity of water.

Thus, suppose two portions, each 200 grs., are weighed, and the one in the oven loses 50 grs. of water, and the other leaves 60 grs. of sand—then the 200 grs. of moist are equal to 150 of dry, and this 150 of dry soil contain 60 of sand, or 40 in 100 (40 per cent.) It would therefore be properly called a loam, or loamy soil.

But the above classification has reference only to the clay and sand, while we know that lime is an important constituent of soils, of which they are seldom entirely destitute. We have, therefore,

"7°. *Marly soils*, in which the proportion of lime is more than five but does not exceed twenty per cent. of the whole weight of the dry soil. The marl is a sandy, loamy, or clay marl, according as the proportion of clay it contains would place it under the one or other denomination, supposing it to be entirely free from lime or not to contain more than five per cent., and,

"8°. *Calcareous soils*, in which the lime exceeding 20 per cent. becomes the distinguishing constituent. These are also calcareous clays, calcareous loams, or calcareous sands, according to the proportion of clay and sand which are present in them."

I am led to give the foregoing definitions from the fact that the Committee of the State Horticultural Society on Grapes and Vineyards, differed in opinion in regard to the classification of the soil of Mr. Mason's vineyard, near Webster Station, on the Pacific railroad. One considered it clay, another loam, and others were in doubt. The location is an eminence, formerly timbered, as could be judged by surroundings, with Post Oak, Hickory, Black Jack and White Oak. The sub-soil is retentive clay, and limestone crops out in the hollows. It is undoubtedly a calcareous loam. It shows the existence of brown iron stone, of the variety called granular brown oxide of iron, or iron shot. This is one of the peculiarities of Post Oak soil, and iron shot exists in a more purely Post Oak soil to a much greater extent than in Mr. Mason's soil. It is also seen in many, if not most, of the Pin Oak soils, though, according to my observation, much more irregular in shape and size. The Pin Oak soils are much more strongly clay, and of course are more cold, wet, heavy, unctuous and unkind.

Allenton, St. Louis Co., Mo. L. D. MORSE.

BUCKTHORN FOR HEDGES.

A writer in the *Prairie Farmer* makes some remarks on this shrub, which are mainly correct. He says:

As briefly as possible let me enumerate some of which I understand to be its points of merit:

1. With proper care it will make a thorough defense against all kinds of stock in six years from the seed.

2. It is perfectly hardy in the highest latitudes, growing wild in Siberia.

3. It is a shrub (not a tree) and naturally attains a height of but 12 or 15 feet.

4. It is propagated from seed which germinates as readily as peas, and may be transplanted from the seed bed at the age of one or two years, with as little per cent. of loss as any other woody plant.

5. No insect feeds upon it or attacks it, and it therefore harbors none.

6. The sap is acrid, bitter, and extremely unpleasant to the taste. Stock are rarely tempted to browse it.

7. It bears severe pruning at any time, and may be trimmed as often as desired during the growing season without danger of starting a feeble growth to be killed the following winter. As a consequence of this, the tender shoots may be cut and the hedge preserved in proper shape by the use of the common Dutch grass hook alone—one man thoroughly pruning half a mile per day with ease; while the portions cut off may be left where they fall without injury, inconvenience, or unsightliness, or may be raked up and handled without gloves.

8. The hedge may, and should be confined to a base not exceeding five feet in width, and after maturity may, without extra labor, be kept at a uniform height of six feet; or, if shelter is desired, it may be allowed to attain a greater height, say ten feet, without danger to its efficiency as a fence, or increase of width at the base.

9. It does not sprout from the root, and there need be no apprehension, when setting it near cultivated grounds, of having a forest where you desired only a fence.

10. It is beautiful both in foliage and fruit, which latter (small berries with four seeds in each) it begins to bear at the age of four years.

Why is it not already in general use?

I know of no reason except the one as stated by Mr. Downing in 1847: "Its thorns stand at the point of each shoot of the old wood. Hence it is that a buckthorn hedge does not appear, and is not really, well armed with thorns till it

has attained its full shape and has had a couple of seasons' shearing. After that, the hedge being well furnished with the ends of the shoots, it presents thorns on every face, and is a thorough defense."

The seed may be obtained of New York seed dealers. It is worth from \$1 to \$1.50 per lb.

The Honey Locust is said to grow beyond control, being a tree and not a shrub.

Privet will do where the hedge is not desired to be proof against depredations by man or beast. The barberry is spoken of now in some quarters, as being suitable for a hedge.

THE FARM IS A MANUFACTORY.—It ought to be so regarded. The soil should be looked upon as bearing the same relation to the agriculturist that any raw material does to the manufacturer of that specific raw article. It is the stock from which is to be wrought out the marketable product. What is put on the soil in the shape of seed, fertilizers, labor, should always be regarded, together with the interest on the money invested in the land, as going to make up the cost of the product—of the article manufactured from the soil. And the farmer should know precisely what this cost is—and it should govern the price at which he sells his produce. Now this is a very simple and self-evident proposition. It has been often repeated; and yet it has got to be told a great many thousand times more before the mass of farmers will appreciate its importance, judging by the ratio of their progress in this matter in the past. We refer to it now, and so often, because we believe it is emphatically the basis of success in agriculture as in manufactures. And we intend to repeat it until our readers who do business haphazard and fail, shall understand how to go to work to find the leak that is sinking the ship.

A NEAT WOOD HOUSE.—A neat wood house is almost equal to a parlor (it reminds one of a parlor), where your wood is all dry and hard, and clean; your very chips clean, for there is no rotten wood. This is house-keeping "outdoors," but still a branch of housekeeping, wood-housekeeping. There are no bad scents in such a building, no bad sights. We have known people idle in such places, attracted thither by the inviting appearance, so unsuspecting does neatness and beauty do their work. This is their influence, the world over, whether on the face of the maiden, the man, or in their forms or characters; or in the world at large—in cattle, in horses, in sheep, a fine shorn, a porker; nature, the landscape all washed and dressed by the rain and dew, and—let the reader finish the list. So much has the neatness of a wood-house suggested. The same holds precisely with other out-buildings.

KANSAS STILL LIVES.

ED. VALLEY FARMER: It may be a matter of some little interest to the people of the world, and particularly to those of the United States, to hear occasionally from Kansas, and more particularly from the southern portion (Bourbon Co.)

I not only state that we still live, but are likely to for some time. We will produce this year enough to feed us well for two years. We in this county can show as good farming and as great an increase in products as any county in the State, and yet not ten farms are cultivated by negro labor.

The *Chicago Tribune* says, there are 15,000 contrabands working the farms of Kansas, and gives them the credit for our fine crops. I learn that the crops in the north part of the State are not as good as here, and that may account for the presence of the *Tribune's* 15,000 contrabands.

Our wheat crop will average 25 bushels per acre, corn about 40, other things in proportion. A farmer of this county threshed from 17 bushels of wheat sown, 712 bushels of good wheat—some others nearly as good.

Our County Agricultural Society will meet on the 29th of Sept. President, Ibon G. A. Crawford; Secretary, E. B. Norcross.

A PROFITABLE CROP OF WHITE BEANS.—We have frequently urged the planting of white beans as a profitable field crop, and have recommended the medium or larger varieties as the most successful. Several in this vicinity have planted the small navy bean with rather indifferent success.

Mr. Henry T. Mudd, of Kirkwood, in St. Louis county, has raised the present year a crop of four acres of the medium white kidney bean. The crop was marketed about the first of September. The yield was 70 bushels, and sold at \$3.25 per bushel, making \$227.50, or \$56.87½ to the acre. The crop was raised in an orchard of bearing trees, and was planted further apart than was necessary. Mr. Mudd thinks that 20 per cent. more might as well have been raised upon the same ground, which would have increased the yield to \$68.25 to the acre. The land is Post Oak, and rather poor of course.

L. D. M.

CURE FOR ONION MAGGOT.—Levi Bartlett, in the *Country Gentleman*, gives the method of one of his neighbors for killing maggots in onions. Pour a small stream of hot water along the drills—not upon the onions—but along them, which will thoroughly warm the onions, but kill the maggot. Too much water, he says, will cook the onion as well as the worm.

QUERIES ABOUT HEDGE PLANTS.

ED. VALLEY FARMER: I desire information in regard to the Thorny or Honey Locust as a hedge plant. I have been experimenting with it for nearly three years, and so far as my knowledge goes, I think it is likely to prove a success. Two years ago last spring, I planted a small quantity of the seed, which came up and did fine. Each winter since, the plants were, many of them, cut down by the rabbits. Last spring I set them in the form of a hedge, putting the plants one foot apart, and trimming them closely for convenience in setting. The plants lived, have made a vigorous growth, and bid fair to make a sturdy hedge. Still, some of my neighbors look upon the thing with distrust.—Will you, or some of your many readers, who may be acquainted with the nature of this plant, please give me the result of your experience through the *Valley Farmer*. It will not be contended, I presume, by any one, that the Locust, for hedging, is superior to the Osage Orange. Still there are several things that can be said in its favor. 1. The seed is abundant in this part and easily obtained. 2. It is easy and sure of propagation. 3. It is hardy, enduring our severe winters, even in the most exposed places. 4. With me, it has thus far endured cutting well. Its liability to send up shoots wherever a root is broken, may be avoided by shallow culture near the hedge, or the weeds may be kept down by a mulch.

Let farmers in this section be satisfied that their labor will be attended with success, and instead of a single field enclosed by a skeleton cotton-wood fence, we may, in a few years, expect to see farms divided into fields of twenty and forty acres, surrounded by fences that are literally things of life and beauty.

All crops here are good, except spring wheat, which was mostly destroyed by the chintz bug. Never was a country more highly favored with fruitful showers at the proper time, than has been Northern Kansas the present season.

A. P. BROWNING.

Padonia, Kansas, Aug. 11, 1883.

[REMARKS.—The Honey Locust can be made to turn stock. It will make an impassable barrier to man or beast. Where land is plenty and wind breakers are desired, it may answer to plant it. But there are many objections to its being introduced into general use. It is a tree, and it is difficult and almost impossible to dwarf it. We doubt if it can be forced into what may properly be termed a hedge. We have seen it planted for a hedge on a large scale, and now

there are rows of trees instead of a hedge. Its roots run a long distance, and are gross feeders, exhausting the fertility of the soil for forty or fifty feet on each side of the row. It is true, grass will grow here. The roots are not inclined to throw up suckers, unless disturbed by the plow.

We have much confidence in Black Thorn for hedges, which is very common throughout the country. It is easily transformed into a hedge, and makes a very compact one. Indeed, we think it superior to the Osage Orange for hedges. It is completely hardy, which cannot be said of the Osage Orange. We hope it will be thoroughly tried in the West. In New Jersey and Pennsylvania it has been tried and found to succeed admirably.]—Ed.

TREATMENT OF HARSH SOILS.—Where soil has been plowed too wet, or in some way or other become lumpy, and thus unfit for profitable tillage, set the agents to work that will pulverize it; and these are not the harrow and cultivator, much less the plow.

Frost is one of these agents. Manure is another; a chemical agent. Cover with long, unfermented manure. Cover as thick as you can well plow under deep. Run your plow to the beam; and be sure to get your manure all well under. Leave it here, where it will work on the soil above; mellow it and enrich it at the same time. Then mix the whole together by plowing, &c., and you will no more complain of lumpy and unfruitful soil. It is not always that a whole field needs this treatment; generally spots, especially clay soil, but any soil plowed too wet. Soil for gardens, when first prepared, may be treated in this way. F.G.

THE TWO GARDENERS.—There were two gardeners whose crops of peas had been killed by frost. One of them fretted and grumbled, and said nobody was so unfortunate as he was. Visiting his neighbor, some time after, he cried out in astonishment,

"What are these?"

"A fine crop of peas!"

"Where did they come from?"

"These are what I sowed, while you were fretting," said the neighbor.

"Why, don't you ever fret?"

"Yes, but I generally put it off till I have repaired the mischief."

"But then you have no need to fret at all," said the fretter.

"Precisely so," replied his friend, "and that is the very reason why I put it off."

A MAN cannot answer for his courage who has never been in danger.

A FEW USEFUL HINTS.—Plank walks are better than stone, as they are more springy and jar less. Besides, they wear out less sole-leather. This is quite an item. Tens of thousands of dollars are each year sunk in this way. There is also less noise. The harsh grating is not pleasant to the ear, especially in the quiet of the evening when sleep is wanted.

The difficulty with fences is, they will rot.—With door-yard fences this is a great evil. Two principles should be kept in view in building such fences; painting the joints when they are united; and using light timber cut (and dried at once) with the sap in it, if the owner is determined to have cheap wood. Better pay a little more for pine and cedar.

HAY SPREADING MACHINE.—This machine, it is thought by many, is of no use. It is of little (though some) use in dry weather. It is of much use in a rainy season. The past season has demonstrated this. A horse and boy will turn with a machine a large lot of hay several times in as many hours, and do it perfectly. This expedites the drying process wonderfully, especially in heavy grass, which needs airing. These machines are beginning to attract attention. Where used, they have always been recommended. It is rather difficult to obtain a machine, as the manufacturers have more orders than they are able to fill. We shall, however, soon have an abundance.

HUNGARIAN GRASS.—This grass does well in the West. It wants a dry, rich soil, and warm—all the better if it be loose and mellow. Sow thick, as then the coarse stalks will be thinner, and the seeds blast: the seeds are considered objectionable. In this way you will be pretty sure to have a crop of fodder, as the drouth has less effect on this millet than upon the grasses generally.

THE BLACK THORN.

ED. VALLEY FARMER: Having become thoroughly convinced, from experiments made, that the common Black Thorn which grows wild in our woods and prairies, is peculiarly adapted for fencing, I have resolved to give it a trial on a large scale; but having as yet failed to produce plants from the berry, I beg you, or some of your subscribers, will give me the necessary information on this point.

Monroe City, Mo.

N. C.

[Will some of our readers, who have had experience in sprouting the seed, give the desired information through the *Valley Farmer*.]—Ed.



From the U.S. Economist.

WOOL FOR WORSTEDS.

We have recommended the increase as far as possible of the Cotswold and Leicester breeds, for the reason that their wool is peculiarly adapted to the production of worsted fabrics, and in no country in the world is there likely to be so good a demand for worsted goods for years to come as in this. The prices of cotton goods having been advanced by reason of war to near the ordinary value of worsted goods, the consumption of the latter must necessarily be greatly increased, as their lightness, compared with woollens, and their durability as compared with cottons, render them exceedingly desirable for men and boys' summer clothing, while their brilliancy of colors and warmth render them equally as desirable in all the Northern States for women and children's clothing for a large portion of the year.

We are informed that the Cotswold breed has been crossed with good success with the Spanish Merino.

It is related to us that a gentleman in Massachusetts had, in 1853, a flock of Cotswold sheep, and living in a section of country where there was a good market for lambs, he had for a number of years disposed of them and kept his old ewes until their wool had become clotted (or felted), tender, and slippery, the natural result of such a policy. The person who had bought the wool for a number of years finally refused to buy it any longer. The owner of the flock determined to change his policy, and bought a large Merino buck, kept his lambs, killed and sold off his old ewes, and by strict attention and good care has to-day the best flock of worsted sheep in that part of the country. He gets a heavier fleece, his sheep are equally hardy, his lambs are as heavy as they were before the cross, and he obtains a better price for his wool in proportion to finer grades.

A very large proportion of the sheep in the Western States have a strong tincture of Meri-

no blood, and might be crossed with the long-wooled sheep, if thought desirable, but the main point is to increase the number of sheep in the country as rapidly as possible, and of worsted sheep in particular. No sheep, except the aged, should be disposed of for slaughtering.

At the present time there are about 20,000,000 in the loyal States, and this number ought to be doubled at least if the demand for wool is to be supplied by the home production in future.

We visited a large wool house a day or two since, and were shown wool from nearly every country on the face of the globe. If we had visited a produce house, and had been shown samples of corn and wheat which had been imported from all these countries, it would have appeared to us quite as consistent.

The rich lands of the West are just as well adapted to sheep husbandry as to the production of corn and wheat, and the two branches of agriculture can be carried on more profitably together on the same farm than it can be done separately. It is an established fact that sheep enrich land more than any other domestic animal. In Illinois, where the production of corn is so great, the farmers would find it exceedingly profitable to have a flock of sheep to consume a portion of their surplus corn in winter instead of disposing of it, as they have frequently been compelled to do within the last five years, at a price scarcely paying the cost of production.— In the winter of 1860 and '61, we will remember that corn was selling in this market at 65 cents a bushel, when the transportation and expenses of selling cost full 55 cents. This left but ten cents to the farmer. Corn is the very best winter food for sheep, but it should be varied each day by hay, turnips, carrots and other vegetables. In what way could the farmers of that country dispose of corn to better advantage than in feeding flocks of Leicesters and Cotswolds, which, with reasonable care, would produce fleeces that would average from five to six pounds as they do in Canada, and that in all human probability will sell for years to come at not less than forty cents a pound, and if the war continues will more likely sell for sixty cents than forty?

On wheat lands, sheep are regarded in England and by some of the best farmers in America as an absolute necessity. The Hon. H. S. Randall of this State, one of the ablest writers on sheep husbandry in the country, in a report to the State Agricultural Society last year, declares "on our grain-growing soils, at least,

sheep are an absolute necessity of good farming." In the report he quotes an extract from a letter written by Mr. Johnson of Geneva, whom he speaks of as "one of the best wheat farmers in the State," in which it is declared that "sheep and wheat farming ought to go hand in hand in this country."

One of the best farmers in Ohio, of whom his neighbors say that "everything he touches turns to gold," related to us a short time since his custom of turning his sheep in the wheat fields for about a week at the close of the winter frosts before the wheat begins to grow. The sheep, he said, would eat off all the frost-bitten blades, and by cutting the wheat down close to the roots, trampling into the soil the roots that are thrown out by the frost, and by distributing manure over the field, would produce a new and more vigorous growth of wheat from the roots, at the same time benefitting the sheep by a fresh feed before the coming of the spring grass.

Farmers in the West that have never kept sheep, would do well to try the experiment by purchasing a few, and, if not found profitable, there would be no great loss. If well cared for, they will prove profitable in any part of the North or West, as has been demonstrated for the last forty years.

DIARRHEA IN CALVES.

Diarrhea is a very prevalent disease among calves. The sucking calf is liable to be the subject of this affection, whenever the general health of the parent is impaired. In such cases the mother is to be treated instead of the calf. She, probably, is the subject of a deranged condition of the digestive organs, which can easily be remedied by the administration of a few doses of the following:

Pulverized charcoal, carbonate of soda, pulverized ginger, equal parts.

Dose—Two ounces, daily, to be incorporated with the food, or it can be given as a drench, by adding a pint of scalded milk.

The disease occasionally occurs in consequence of weaning the calf (in view of husbanding the cow's milk) and feeding the juvenile on improper food. This kind of diarrhea must be treated as follows:

Let the calf have two ounces of phosphate of lime, two drachms of carbonate of soda, and a quart of scalded milk; mix the same, and administer by means of a drenching horn, or bottle. It may be divided into broken doses, or may be given at once as a single dose.

If the above remedies fail in arresting the diarrhea, I should give three drachms of tincture of matico, every four hours, until the patient showed some signs of improvement.—
| Dr. Dadd.

How to Produce First Class Wool.

In order to secure first-class wool, sheep should always be kept in an improving condition. It is an established principle in animal economy, that those who take the best care of stock, no matter what kind it is, (horses, cattle, hogs, or what not,) universally secure the largest profits, and to no class of stock does this principle apply more strongly than to sheep. In this lies the superiority of the English wether. It is always kept in an improving condition, fattening for the market, and never allowed, if by any means it can be prevented, to lose flesh. It is almost impossible to keep up the condition of ewes. Their health will be variable, and their fleeces equally so; stunted in growth, bottom cotted or felted, with a weak place in the staple, which grew when the sheep was out of condition.

The Leicester and the Cotswold are the breeds best adapted for producing the wool most required at the present time. Their carcasses are large, and the wool of long staple, which renders them more valuable both for the fleece and mutton. Let the farmer bear in mind however, that it is the yearlings and the wethers that will pay him the greatest profit. The wethers, if well cared for, will be very large, producing heavy fleeces and making as good mutton as the famous Southdowns of England.

We saw a notice in one of the daily papers but a few days since of five wethers having been sold for fifty-five dollars, and of twenty-one wethers for two hundred and thirty-one dollars.

Many of the farmers in our country, after securing a good flock of sheep, allow them rapidly to degenerate by breeding in, and by disposing of the lambs and keeping their old ewes. This is more frequently the case where farmers have a good market for lambs.

It will be well to bear in mind, that the fleece of a sheep deteriorates every year, and the wool from ewes with two lambs is scarcely worth half as much as the fleece from a yearling or wether. Fleeces from a yearling wether have frequently been sold in England for as much as two lambs from an ewe together with her fleece, while the wether had greatly increased in value during the year, and the ewe had decreased. Ewes should be kept until two years old before coming in with lambs. The increased

weight of wool, the increased size of the ewe and lamb, and their improved condition, will more than compensate for a year's patient waiting. Breeding from too young deteriorates as much as breeding from too old. To keep a flock in a thriving condition no old ewes should be kept, and the rams should be changed often, taking care in all cases to obtain them from some other flock, and to breed from no ewes less than two years' old. The fleeces will be larger, the wool better, and will consequently bring a better price. Wool adapted to the production of worsted will hereafter command a higher price than any other, as we have the strongest assurances, from parties well informed upon the subject, that the manufacture of worsted goods will at once be commenced in several parts of New England upon a large scale, and with skill and capital which will, it is confidently believed, insure success.—[*U. S. Economist*.]

WORKING COWS.

The following is contained in the *Michigan Farmer*:

The idea of yoking up and making cows yield profit before the plow and harrow, as well as in the dairy line, is new. Probably it has never occurred to many a man who has been greatly in need of their draught services, and who might have availed himself of them at very little extra expense and no detriment to the cows. We say no detriment because the matter has been thoroughly tested, and proves that cows may be moderately worked before the plow, and keep in good flesh and give fully as much milk as when not worked.

At a plowing match held on the estate of the Right Hon. Earl Ducie, Crummel Park, we noticed, says *Bell's Messenger*, "a team of cows, engaged in plowing at one end of the field, and as they appeared to excite a tolerable amount of attention, we thought it worth while to make a note on the spot. The animals were polled cows in full milk, and belonged to Mr. John Evans, of Woodford, Gloucestershire, who is, we believe, a small enterprising farmer. Two of the cows were rather old; the hindmost one, the owner assured us, had been worked regularly during the last seven years, had had a calf every year, and one season was worked up to the day previous to calving. The middle cow was a three-year-old, and this was her second season, the owner putting his cows to the plow at two years old. Our readers must bear in mind that the cows were in full milk, being milked twice every day; on very hot days it was found necessary to milk them three times.

Mr. Evans assured us that the cows gave more and richer milk when they were regularly worked, and that the goods were larger in amount, as well as better in quality; to use his own words, when there was a less quantity of goods made, his wife would tell him that he had not worked the cows so much, which was invariably the fact."

Of course cows, when worked would need to be well fed, requiring a small portion of more expensive food—oil cake, bran, etc., proving suitable—but it would be but a small portion of the additional expense of keeping a yoke of oxen, and in new sections, where cows have a wide range of wild land pasturage, a vast deal of time usually spent in "looking up the cows," would be saved. Well do we remember our boyhood twilight tramps from two to six miles, sometimes fruitless at that, on the broad Wisconsin prairies. And yet there were two yokes of oxen on the farm, which might better have been in the beef barrel; but the idea of working the cows never was thought of, simply because nobody practiced it.

Perhaps some will say that cows ought to be exempt from work—that it would be barbarous to work them because they are females and give milk. Let such turn their attention inside the domicile. Are cows better and more delicate than women? Few are the farmer's wives whose work is lighter than harrowing or plowing half the time would be for cows. Most farmers have at least four cows, and one yoke might be worked half the time, and the other the remainder, when heavy work like plowing is to be done.

We recommend those who have both cows and oxen, and no sewing machine, to sell the oxen as soon as they can be fattened, and buy a sewing machine, together with plenty of good papers and books for food for the mind.

The labors of the housewife may thus be materially lightened, and her heart made glad; while she will be enabled also to do better justice to both the training and clothing of the growing crop of humanity, which is worthy some care and attention, as well as corn, sheep and hogs—even as well as sorghum! Yes, farmers, it will be well to take some pride in, and bestow great care upon the crop of incipient men and women. It is more barbarous to neglect them, than to work the cows moderately.

We find a communication in the *Ohio Cultivator* from which the following extract is taken: "I do not think cows are much better than women, or than mares; and so I am of the opin-

ion they might work as well as the female man and female horse. In Germany they have to do it, and the owner is greatly the gainer, while the cow is none the worse off for having to work. Many a small farmer could make money did he work his cows, while, when he does his work with oxen or horses, he expends all his profits upon those animals and their feed, which keeps him poor. Let him have four cows, and to plow, use two half of the forenoon, and then change; and so in the afternoon, milking them three times a day. In resting time they could be grazing or eating mow grass. A little grain must be fed, but this would re-pay in the greater abundance of milk and butter."

CROSS BREEDING.

We find in the *Country Gentleman* the following views in relation to the crossing between improved blood and common cattle, for dairy and beef purposes:

Mr. Coleman, a very intelligent writer on agricultural subjects, and if we are not mistaken, the head manager of the extensive and highly practical farm-operations at Woburn Abbey—contributes an article on the subject of cross-breeding, to a recent number of the *Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society*, of the truth of which American experience affords illustrations quite as ample as those he adduces from the farms of England. He gives it as his unqualified opinion that in the selection of beasts to fatten, crosses may be invariably taken to the best advantage—that they "will best pay the breeder, and be most sought for by the purchaser who intends to fatten."

So much is this a recognized fact that in Scotland, the polled Galloways, as well as the Ayrshires, West Highland, and other breeds, are now crossed with the Short Horns to such a degree "that the pure breeds are rarely to be met with, except at the shows of our Agricultural Societies." In the west of England a Hereford cross is very common; and there, and throughout the dairying counties, "many of the small farmers who keep two or three cows, manage to send them to the pure bred bull of a wealthy neighbor," and it is conclusively proved that "a few pounds laid out on a good bull is an act of strict economy."

In his own experience, Mr. Coleman has mainly tested a cross of the Hereford upon Norfolk cows. "These half breeds," he says, "far exceed my most sanguine expectations. * At our annual sale of fat stock, held here every Christmas, I find if I have a crossed ox it invariably

makes £2 to £3 more than the pure bred ones; and the reason is that the butchers tell me they weigh so much better, are more fleshy and give their customers greater satisfaction from the fact of the fat being better mixed with the lean. I have cross-bred steers three years old making from £30 to £40 each, their dams being small Ayrshire cows, and the sire a pure Hereford bull."

As Mr. Coleman has thus no predjudice from his own interest, or otherwise, in favor of the Short Horns, we may receive his opinions as to the results of a cross from this breed, with great confidence, and we may add that the statement he makes is most fully borne out in this country. He says:

"The majority of the cross-bred cattle we meet now-a-days partakes more of the character of the Short Horn than anything else, so that to this breed belongs the credit of having done most toward supplying food for the millions.—No matter what sort of amalgamation of sorts the cow may be, a cross with a pure Short Horn bull rarely fails to make an improvement in size, quality, and fattening properties, if not in the milking powers of the produce."

In conclusion, Mr. Coleman thinks that as between pure animals of two improved breeds, the first cross is an improvement, while the result of further crossings is likely to prove inferior to either of the pure breeds. And as to the general stock of the country, which "cannot be said to belong to any pure breed," he urges strongly that their owners "cannot do better than cross them with a bull of a pure breed," particularly "where a farmer is not in a position to keep high-priced stock, either from want of means or of proper shelter for them."

ALDERNEY CATTLE.—The heifer of this stock when but three months old, will seek the male: hence, cows are the result in twelve months. This seems premature. It is said not, to be by those who have tried it, and condemned by those who have not tried it. Little friendly cows they make, costing little and having fair yields in proportion. For beef, this early maternity may be a disadvantage; but for milk, nature, no doubt, knows as well as we, or she would not stimulate thus early for that purpose. Think of only twelve months' expense; the profit of milk then to begin; and the sooner the lactal secretion begins, the better for that secretion. This, we believe, no one will dispute. Hence, for milk, the Alderneys are an advantage. There will in this, as in all others, be exceptions. What say our readers—those of them who have tested the Alderneys?

CAUSE OF INFERIOR STOCK.

We find the following very sensible remarks floating around without credit:

Some farmers sell or slaughter their best stock of mares, cows, ewes or sows, and thus cut off all hopes of any improvement at one blow. Does a heifer show a disposition to fatten easily? She is encouraged to feed until fat, and is then sold and eaten, while her fellows, who belong to the same breed with Pharoah's lean kine, are kept for milk or rearing calves, because they are not and cannot be made fat for the butcher. Has a farmer a sow pig which becomes fat upon the feed on which the rest of the pigs are starving? He gives her over to the butcher's knife, and propagates from "land shads" and corn cribs.

Has he a fine, round, bright-eyed ewe? She will be fat about the time his half-filled pork barrels are empty, and she is stripped of her fair skin and fair proportions simply because she is worth the trouble of killing; and thus many of our farmers perpetuate a breed of animals that are a disgrace to the country. They seem uneasy while they possess an animal that will draw the attention of their neighbors, or the butchers, and woe be to it if it put on a better appearance than its fellows, for from that time its doom is sealed.

To improve the breed of animals, it is by no means necessary to incur a great expense in bringing animals from a distance. If a farmer will mount his horse and ride across the country some fine day, and view the live stock of his neighbors, he will soon perceive that there are abundant means of bettering his circumstances by cross or exchange, at a slight cost, and he by this plan is improving his judgment by comparison, and hoarding up experience for a future day that will be of more value to him than the expense of many such excursions; improvement once begun, and persisted in for a short time will produce such a corresponding improvement in the mind and circumstances of the farmer as will ensure its continuation, and richly reward all his labor and outlay.

Many of our farmers destroy the hope of improving their stock by a system of false economy in the selection of the males from which they breed their stock; many do not keep a male from which to breed their horses or horned stock, nor is it necessary, as one will do for a neighborhood; but this one should be the best, and in order to keep a good one, a good price must and should be charged for his services.

Alderney or Jersey Cows.

In a recent reply to certain questions of a correspondent in reference to the Alderney or Jersey breed of cattle, the editor of the *Maine Farmer* gives the result of his experience as follows:

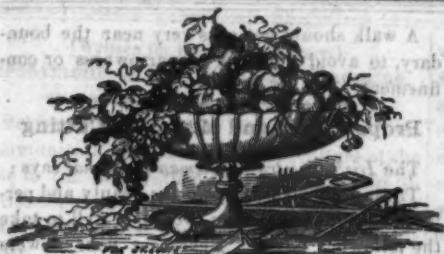
We have kept Jersey cattle for eight years past, and find them the best for dairy purposes. They have become acclimated, and stand our climate, both the heat of summer and the cold of winter, well. They do not grow so large as some of the Durhams and Herefords—though we have seen bulls and oxen of them that girthed seventeen feet. They fatten well and easily when not milked or worked. The cows we consider handsome as cow beauties. The oxen are not showy or stately, but no better workers, according to their inches, can be found anywhere. The principal value of the Jerseys, however is for the dairy, and for that purpose they are superior, especially for butter.

John Giles, Esq., of South Woodstock, Ct., contributes the following remarkable instance of early productiveness in an Alderney heifer: "It may not be uninteresting to some of your readers to know the amount of butter a small Alderney heifer made in six days, viz: from the first of July to July sixth, which, taking into consideration, her age, is we think not bad.—She was dropped March 25th, 1862. April 27th, 1863, she dropped a heifer calf, being then 13 months and 2 days old. At the time of trial she was 15 months and 11 days old, and then made five pounds of splendid orange-colored butter in the six days above specified. We do not think had the trial taken place the fore part of June she would have made over one pound of butter a day. If any of our friends can beat this Alderney yearling heifer, it it would be pleasing to hear from them."

DOGS AND SHEEP.—John H. Klippart, Corresponding Secretary of the Ohio State Board of Agriculture, has published some interesting statistics in regard to agricultural matters in that State. Montgomery county is not included in the figures given. The number of dogs in the State, the above-named county excepted, is 174,404.

Sheep killed by dogs,	36,778
Valued at	\$101,561
Sheep injured by dogs,	24,972
Valued at,	\$34,786
Total value, killed and injured,	\$136,347

TO PREVENT HOG CHOLERA.—Prof. J. B. Turner sends the following to the *Prairie Farmer*: Take a peck of ashes, 4 lbs. of salt, 1 lb. of black antimony, 7 lbs. of copperas, 1 lb. of sulphur, 1 or 1-8 lb. of saltpeter. Pound the ingredients fine, mix them well, and keep them constantly in a trough by itself; and each hog will eat what he needs of the medicine from day to day.



HORTICULTURAL.

DELAWARE GRAPES.

We are indebted to our horticultural friend, John A. Prickett, Esq. of Edwardsville, Ill. for a box of fine Delaware grapes; the best we have seen this year. The Delaware seems to succeed better under Mr. Prickett's treatment, than it does under the treatment of our Missouri growers. Mr. Prickett's soil is a retentive clay. This he trenched thoroughly three feet deep before planting the vines. He has found the plant to be quite a strong grower—the stalks of plants that have been set out two years, three-quarters of an inch in diameter. He has also found it to be quite productive. The bunches are fine, but not all of them thoroughly ripened.

By the leaves accompanying the grapes, however, we see that Mr. Prickett's vines are affected by leaf blight caused by insects, or the heat of the sun, or the weather. The leaves, however, are not as badly affected as those we have seen in Missouri. Many vines are here completely denuded of leaves, loaded with unripened fruit—and it will never ripen on account of the absence of the leaves. We have watched this grape with great hope and interest for several years, but we find it affected uniformly with this disease. To us this seems an insuperable objection to its being planted largely for market. A few plants for amateur culture may still be planted; but for culture for wine or market in Missouri, or Southern Ills., even, where we have seen it, we must condemn it. When thoroughly ripened, no native grape can compare in quality with the Delaware. On account of this, it is sincerely to be regretted that it is not adapted to our locality.

Accompanying the Delaware, were bunches of the Rebecca and Concord. The Rebecca does not succeed as well as the Delaware. It is a feeble grower, less productive, and the leaf is badly affected. It is not worth planting here, even for amateur culture. Mr. Prickett finds

it a feeble, unhealthy grower, and so do all who have tried it hereabouts where we have seen it cultivated.

The Concord gives more general satisfaction. It has been affected a little in some localities by rot; but not enough to be mentioned in comparison with most other varieties. The leaf and vine are remarkably healthy. The plant very vigorous and productive. The quality of the grape is much inferior to that of the Delaware and Rebecca, of course; but when thoroughly ripened, it is very palatable. It is far superior in this latitude to what it is at the North. We do not blame our Northern horticultural friends for speaking, as many of them do, about its inferior quality; for they speak truly of it in that locality. A few degrees south almost makes another grape of it; and its other excellent qualities, such as health, vigor, productiveness, earliness, &c. will make it the grape vine for the million in this latitude.

A FEW BONES FOR YOUR GRAPE VINES.—If people are too lazy or too busy to attend to their grape vines, let them do this; simply stick a few bones into the ground among the roots. This will take but a few minutes, and it is efficacious; not only for a few years, but for a dozen or more, depending somewhat upon the size of your bones. Get them pretty well down among the roots by driving them with an ax; or, what is better, dig them in. We will not advise you to mix a little lime with the ground; an excellent thing where lime has not been used; for that would be too much work for you; much less to remove the top-earth down to the roots, and supply it with new, rich earth mixed with dead leaves, a little lime and ashes, with a few bones stuck here and there among the roots, gently loosening the soil. All this, only successful grape growers do. But go at once and drive a few bones into the ground. This may also be a step towards pruning, for one success is apt to bring on another.

KEEPING APPLES.—A correspondent of the *Agriculturist* says, he keeps his apples in plaster (ground gypsum). He covers the bottom of his cask an inch with the ground plaster; lays his apples in it, so they don't touch each other; covers them with another layer of plaster, an inch above the apples, and so proceeds to fill up the barrel. This correspondent, M. B. Thompson, of Pennsylvania, keeps pippins in this way till June. The apples are kept in a cool place, which may account for their keeping.

TREES AND WALKS IN LAWNS.

Mr. Thomas, in the *Country Gentleman*, lays down the following rules for planting trees and shrubs, and laying out walks in lawns and gardens:

Distribution of Trees and Shrubs.—Avoid the old, stiff, geometric mode of planting in straight lines, unless in particular cases, along roads or avenues, or strictly for the purpose of utility.

Imitate the graceful groupings seen in the most beautiful natural plantations, or in landscape pictures.

In the absence of any other guide, the novice may copy in his groupings, the irregular and scattered drops of rain on a flagstone, or the position of the stars in the sky.

Plant most thickly, and with the larger, or with evergreen trees, where it is desirable to conceal unsightly objects, or to shelter from prevailing winds; and leave the view more open, where distant or pleasing objects may be seen, as hills, lakes or rivers, villages, &c.

Plant so as to conceal boundary fences, and leave the view partly open towards some of the further corners of the grounds, to prevent a cramped or confined appearance. The extent will be apparently increased by placing trees of light or fine foliage towards these distant parts.

In order to avoid abruptness, gradations from one kind of trees to another—as, for instance, from evergreens to deciduous—should be somewhat gradual, or by intermingling the two together.

Walks.—No part of pleasure grounds are more expressive of the character of the keeping than the walks. The finest gardens, with rough, irregular, and unfinished walks, convey an expression of bad management; but if smooth, graceful, and well kept, even though a wild, natural shrubbery, they impart a graceful air to the whole.

Avoid abruptness in curves, but let a long curve pass gradually into a short one.

There should be an apparent and obvious reason for every curve—either for the purpose of sweeping around from one object to another, or to avoid such an object as a flower bed or mass of shrubbery, placed in the direct line.

Hence, it is advisable to place such an object on the inner side of any curve.

The only part of a walk visible to the spectator, should, in general, be that portion immediately before him; the other parts, therefore, should be concealed by plantings or by rising ground.

A walk should not pass very near the boundary, to avoid a feeling of narrowness or confinement.

Proper Time and Mode for Cutting Flowers.

The *Irish Country Gentleman's Journal* says:

Those who wish to retain the beauty and perfume of their cut flowers, would do well to take the following advice: Never cut your flowers during the intense sunshine, nor keep them exposed to the sun or wind; do not collect them in large bundles, nor tie them tightly together, as this hastens their decay. Do not pull them but cut them cleanly off the plant, with a sharp knife, not with a pair of scissors. When taken indoors, place them in the shade, and reduce them to the required length of stock with a sharp knife, by which means the tubes through which they draw up water are left open, and the water is permitted to ascend freely, whereas if the stems are bruised or lacerated, these pores are closed up.

Use pure water to set them in, or pure white sand in a state of saturation, sticking the ends of the stalks in it, but not in a crowded manner. If in water alone, it ought to be changed daily, and a thin slice should be cut off the ends of the stalks at every change of water. Water about milk-warm, or containing a small quantity of camphor dissolved in spirits of wine, will often revive flowers that have begun to fade. Place a glass shade over them during the night, or indeed at all such times as they are not purposely exhibited. Shade them from very bright sunshine, and, when uncovered, set them where they may not be exposed to a draught of air. A cool temperature during the summer is favorable for them; and the removal of the slightest symptoms of decay is necessary. When carried to a distance, carry them in a shallow air-tight tin case, or cover them with paper to exclude them from air and light. Charcoal saturated with water is also a good media to stick them in, and the thinner they are kept the better.

FLUES FOR GREEN HOUSES.—E. Sanders offers the following suggestion in the *Prairie Farmer*, which is worthy of attention by all erecting green houses:

In building flues for heating green-houses, be sure and have the top of the furnace at least one foot lower than the bottom of the flue; in other words, have that much rise, which had better be gradual for a few feet than abrupt. The advantage of the rise, to say nothing of its drawing better, is that the heat is much more felt in the flue, and other things being equal a furnace built with the rise will require less attention; a great desideratum, to keep up a given temperature.

[Written for the Valley Farmer.]

Treatment of the Vine: Its Enemies.

BY LOUIS L. KOCH, GOLCONDA, ILL.

Before we pass from the first division of our communications, namely, from the culture of the vine to the preparation of wine, permit us to notice the many obstacles which endanger the grape from its first development to perfect maturity.

Wine growing has almost become a problem just from these obstacles, so that many a zealous person has grown wearied and given up his vineyard, while others, interested in it otherwise, have been discouraged even to begin.

Though some of these evils might partially be remedied by properly situating the vineyard, or carefully selecting the right sort of grape, yet, in many instances, nothing can be done.—I speak of them as they appear in the course of the year, and for the sake of general usefulness, add my own experience on the subject:

1. **THE FREEZING OF THE VINE.**—In 37½° latitude it is only known when uncommonly hard frosts prevail, and only then in those parts of the vineyard that incline to the N. W. and W., as well as when in luxuriantly warm fall weather early hard frosts appear, whereby the thickening of the juices is retarded. The only protection is, to lay the vines down betimes, and cover the young vine with earth or some other protection. This should never be omitted, either in the case of young, luxuriantly grown vines, with the grafts of one year, or with such as are tender and adapted to Southern countries. This operation, however, cannot be executed without difficulty and considerable time, and I would recommend only such sorts for the vineyard, among those which require shelter during the winter, as would compensate for the special labor spent. For instance, Herbemont, so frequently commended, requires such shelter, and is (at least in my localities) so uncertain in its yield that I could never recommend its culture on a large scale. If then, from reasons stated, such a cover is necessary, it should be removed as soon as no more hard frosts are apprehended, as the vines beneath such warm cover would quickly sprout.

2. **INJURIES BY LATE SPRING FROST.**—Far more frequent and sensitive are the late spring frosts, which make their appearance only by the time that nature is somewhat advanced in vegetation, and the young grapes may already be recognized. Such a frost may destroy the harvest of an entire year, or at least greatly reduce it, without being able to stay its ruinous progress. This casualty is most to be feared

where vineyards incline to the N. or N. W., which has previously induced me to warn against the laying off of vineyards in that direction, and strongly to recommend their inclination to the S. or S. E. The late frost will ever be injurious to a vineyard on its N. side, while the S. E. or S. side will scarcely be affected. Whenever the injury is done, the only remedy is, a few days afterwards, to cut off all the frost-bitten sprouted parts, when at first the affected parts are seen. In most cases, then, the reserve buds appear and produce, in a favorable summer, a yield rather slight in the way of grapes, though tolerably large as to wood.—The vicinity of lakes and rivers of some size is remarkably favorable in the case of such late frosts. While my vineyard, immediately on the Ohio, is but very partially and very rarely visited by spring frosts, causing injury, yet a few miles in the interior all the young sprouts have been known to freeze—a fact within my own knowledge. Valleys, surrounded by woody heights, are also to be feared, the descent of dews and damp in such places, in the spring, being much more severe, and consequently more dangerous than on airy heights.

3. **HAIL.**—One of the most fearful and destructive phenomena not only for the vine, but for the entire vegetable kingdom. Such a calamity brought upon the vine in spring, before the buds have sprouted any considerable time, must be immediately succeeded by a removal of the injured sprouts, just as is done in the case of late frost; in order to diminish the loss. The reserve buds, as in the other case, will soon again sprout, and in this way, at least we preserve the form of the vine. But if a hail storm appears later in the season, nothing can be done but at the next fall trimming to remove the injured wood, in order to raise new and healthy branches for the next season. Too frequently, after a violent hail storm, the vine must be cut back to the old wood, whereby certainly the loss will extend itself over years.

4. **MILDEW.**—Its first appearance is shortly after blossom time, when the berries are of the size of a pin's head; at times, however, still later, and even toward the end of June. It is found generally on small parcels of grapes on the little stems, which, as well as the grapes, seem sprinkled as with flour. I never observed this evil on my vines to any extent when it appears early, and will soon cease when the weather is clear and dry. The parts affected dry up without falling off. After protracted rains, and a succeeding sultry atmosphere, this disease is

too frequently known to return, when it is mostly more sensitive than before. The most dangerous period is when the berries have reached about the size of a green pea. At times such a late mildew destroys within twenty-four hours the brightest hopes. The handsome and vivid green of the berry thus affected, is soon changed into a dull, grayish green, and by means of a microscope you will be able to perceive both the grape and its little stem covered over by a web as it were of the color of mould. The berries injured sometimes do not drop off after such a calamity (which gradually disappears), but they shrivel up, presenting a sad appearance.—Mildew, though more frequent and destructive in one locality than another, is known, however, under any circumstances to visit some kinds of grapes rather than other. Among all our sorts I only know the Virginia Seedling as entirely free, which in my vineyard has been spared, when of other sorts standing next to it, such as the Catawba, &c., the entire harvest has been ruined. The only preventive is found in the selection of sorts to be planted.

5. **SUMMER ROT.**—According to my own observation, it most frequently makes its appearance from the middle of June to the middle of July, and when the weather is damp and sultry. The berry affected by this form of the rot receives a spot hardly the size of a pin's head, and of the color of leather. This unlucky omen rapidly spreads itself over the whole vineyard, and the spot soon increases, and shows in its external appearance dark, narrow rings, which soon encircle the entire berry, when it drops off. Too frequently the summer rot destroys entire crops in a few days.

6. **DRY ROT.**—It is mostly to be feared in exceedingly wet weather, and appears generally from the end of July to the end of August.—The berries, at this time rapidly approaching maturity, receive suddenly a dull, dark gray in the direction of the stem, and drop off on the slightest touch. By this disease I have seen great expectations blighted in a few days, without being able in the least to arrest its sudden destruction. Catawba, and all the sorts of this family, seem specially subject to this disease. Besides, I entertain the firm conviction that this dry rot is much more destructive and of much longer duration, where the grapes hang over each other (as they do where the vine is cultivated by means of posts), than on the espalier (where the branches are much more symmetrically distributed), and thereby secure a greater current of air to every grape.

In this connection I cannot forget to name another disease very similar to that of the summer rot, of which I have hitherto heard but little. It seems peculiar to such sorts as have thin skins and abundance of juice—for instance, the Herbemont, Rulander, &c. Mostly in the first half of June (the berries having reached about the size of half a green pea) the little leather-colored spot, like that more particularly described when speaking of the summer rot, affects at times the entire berry. The berry is now suddenly seen to shrink, receives a dark color, dries up, and remains hanging in this condition. I am little acquainted with its cause. This remarkable disease will not unfrequently destroy all the grapes upon one vine, while the adjacent vines will be left totally untouched.—The entire crop of my Herbemont was nearly destroyed in the summer of 1863.

7. **BITTER ROT.**—When the berry has reached its maturity, this disease affects some sorts of the same family with the Catawba, when the crops have been somewhat retarded. The color of the berry on the side toward the sun, is now changed into a dull brown, and with the aid of a microscope some uneven places may be observed on its skin. The spot (small in the beginning) soon extends itself over the whole berry. It is now of a rotten, bitter taste, which reaches however but the described affected part, while the other healthful side is still sweet. The berry, as soon as the stem is touched by this rot, falls off, and occasions a still greater reduction of the yield. A careful experiment, nevertheless, convinced me that these bitter berries (even in large quantities) intermixed with the sound ones, when pressed, do not impart to the wine any peculiar taste. In order to be fully convinced about this matter, I had about a bushel of such bitter berries pressed, and found that the wine obtained from these was by no means inferior to that pressed from the sound berries. The danger then presented by this disease consists merely in retarding the harvest after the first signs of its appearance.

But I do not deem this phenomenon as the result of the grapes being too ripe, (or, if you please, over ripe,) as I have at times found grapes (having been passed by at gathering) the berries of which had attained a much greater degree of sweetness, without having been touched by bitter rot. Consequently, I am rather compelled to believe that its appearance is a form of disease, which, as already stated, hitherto observed only upon the Concord and Catawba; perhaps, too, upon the Diana.

To the foregoing obstacles to a perfect wine harvest, the sting of the berry by the curculio is to be added, which makes its depredations upon all sorts, but especially upon such sorts as have large berries, although varying according to the different years. It causes considerable damage, without having any effectual remedy against it.

The damage done to grapes by birds when maturity comes on, also calls for our attention to drive them off, so as to prevent vast depredations. Different kinds of bugs and small caterpillars endanger the young sprouts in spring, and the foliage in the summer months, &c.; to enter into the details of which, both time and space forbid. Notwithstanding all this, the wine grower must not become weary, but devote the more attention to his enterprise, as an abundant harvest indeed frequently compensates for the losses and pains-taking of several years. Many of the enemies named may be removed in the course of culture, while many a remedy yet unknown may be devised. The planting of sorts found to be certain and affording guaranty to the grower, by virtue of their peculiar nature, will in time not far hence result in a greater, perhaps a sufficient extension, so as to dispense still more largely with the introduction of foreign wines. Perhaps, too, by proper care and attention, directed by experience, at the gathering and pressing of the grape, we may produce a wine of unmistakeable superiority, and thus succeed in banishing the prejudice of many of our able wine judges against the wine raised in this country.

Both soil and climate justify us in the assertion, that with a correct application of the two, we will, in our own time, rival Europe in the culture of wine.

CONDITION OF FRUIT BEARING.—It is a fact, which we believe we have before intimated, that feeble branches and trees are more disposed to fruit than vigorous. Our own orchard this year is a good illustration of this. The branches (affected by the borer or otherwise) have more fruit and finer than the healthy, thrifty limbs. It is with this principle in view that our horticulturists cut back the more vigorous shoots; and that in the full tide of growth. This checks and partially stunts them. Fruit-spurs are disposed to be formed, and the condition of the poor limb for fruit-bearing is established. Great growth of branches is seldom a great growth of fruit. It is so with most, if not all, vegetation. Pinch back then a too vigorous growth in summer, if there is sufficient wood, or if fruit is more wanted than wood.

[Written for the Valley Farmer.]
BLATHERSKITES.

BY DR. L. D. MORSE.

In most, if not all, assemblages of men for the purpose of deliberation or discussion, there will be found a few specimens of what are cantingly denominated "blatherskites." Agricultural and horticultural gatherings are not by any means exempt from these bores. As the season for these gatherings is approaching, a few friendly hints and suggestions may be productive of some good.

There are, however, very few indeed who attend our gatherings, to whom the epithet could be justly applied; yet there are more than a few who are inclined to be more talkative than interesting—or, even if interesting, are inclined to occupy more time than is conducive to the best interests in view.

It is always very desirable on these occasions to get the experience and opinions of as many observers as possible. It often happens that modest men who are not willing to crowd themselves forward, can scarcely get an opportunity to say a word or ask a question. If they do succeed in getting in a word, it often costs an effort that is very liable to confuse their ideas and incapacitate them from saying what they desire. The opinions of these modest men are generally the most valuable. They talk less and think more; while empty heads, like empty wagons, make the most noise.

Frequently a mooted point arises, in which two or three of the talkers (!) become interested, and then they are very liable to fatigue both the presiding officer and the majority of the meeting without eliciting an equivalent amount of information. If a discussion becomes a little warm, the leaders in it are sure to crowd out the more modest and less pushing members, should they be disposed to put a finger in.

It may be safely adopted as a rule, that debates upon matters of theory and practice are unprofitable. It is better that each should state his opinion or practice, and the reasons therefor, and avoid debate. It will be evident on reflection, that those prone to too much talking, should sometimes check this natural disposition, however desirable such a disposition may be in some circumstances.

It will be equally evident that all possible courtesy and encouragement should at all times be extended to the modest, backward or diffident members of our agricultural and horticultural associations. We need their opinions and the result of their experience and observations.

We cannot afford to do without them, and we need have no fears that they will ever tire us with overmuch talking.

THE GRAPE CROP.

CLINTON, Sept. 10.

Dr. B. Pierson, Esq., President Cincinnati Horticultural Society:

DEAR SIR: At your request, I present a report on the grape crop. In the vicinity of Cincinnati, and for thirty or forty miles around, the yield will be from one-third to one-half less than an average crop—supposing 200 galls. to the acre to be the average. This will also be the result around Ripley, Vevay, and in those parts of the Ohio Valley on the limestone formation. In the coal and sandstone regions, and in the islands and on the shores of Lake Erie, the crops, with very few exceptions, are good. The rot, so injurious to us, did but little damage there. In Missouri, Southern Illinois and Indiana, I am informed, the rot has destroyed one-third of the crop. But on the Upper Mississippi and in Wisconsin, the grapes are said to be very fine. In Kentucky, near Lexington and Frankfort, some vineyards have escaped, whilst others have suffered from this disease. These remarks apply, of course, to the Catawba grape, with which nearly all our vineyards are planted. The Delaware, Norton, Concord and some other varieties have showed but little, if any rot. Since the rot ceased in August, the weather has been very favorable for ripening the grape, and the quality of the wine ought to be good. Very respectfully,

R. BUCHANAN.

[Reported for the Valley Farmer.]

Meramec Horticultural Society.

NEAR EUREKA, P. R. R., Sept. 3, 1863.

Under the noblest elms in our county, on the banks of the beautiful (now placid) Meramec, with its vast overhanging cliffs, so densely covered with the wild garb of nature, the guest of a man and woman whose art completed Nature's majestic scenery, was held the fifty-seventh monthly meeting of our Society. President Beale in the chair.

The minutes of former meeting read and approved. Secretary stated that he had received a complimentary ticket to the Fair of the Illinois State Horticultural Society, at Rockford, of which he could not avail himself, and placed it at the use of the Society.

The Report of the Fair Committee was again read in order to refresh the members as to their duties in reference to the occasion.

The editorial notice of the Fair of this Society was read, upon call, amid the applause of the meeting.

Upon motion, Resolved, That the following members be appointed a committee to meet on Tuesday next and prepare the Grounds, Booth and House for the exhibition, viz: Dr. A. W. McPherson, Wm. Harris and P. M. Brown. Adopted.

The Committee on Fruits presented the following Report:

Mrs. Blakey exhibits very fine Bartlett and Goshaut pears, the latter she thinks the best pear she has; extra large and fine specimens of Smith's Orleans and Cox's Golden Drop plums, Concord and Isabella grapes, and large well matured raspberries.

Mrs. Robt. K. Woods makes a very fine show of fruit, all of which gives striking evidence of high cultivation; her Bartlett pears and Crawford's late peaches are the finest on the table, and would rarely ever be excelled at any exhibition.

Mr. Wm. Harris has very fine samples of Stump the World, a very fine looking peach of good quality, and fine bunches of Concord grapes and Duane's Purple plum.

Mr. Muir has very large samples of the Hawley, Monstrous Pippin, Keswick Codlin, Maiden's Blush, St. Lawrence and Snow apples; of grapes very good Norton's Virginia, Delaware, Catawba, Northern Muscadine and Clinton.

Mr. Wm. Essex exhibits very good Bartlett pears, from standard and dwarf, those grown on the dwarf stock being fully one-third larger than those from the standard; also the Belle Lucrative pear, and very good Crawford's late peaches.

Mr. H. Hough sends very large samples of Fall Pippin, grown as dwarf, and the Draught Amber grape, very fair, promising well.

Mr. E. Vaughan sends good samples of Belle Lucrative pear.

Mr. Jas. Shields has good specimens of pear; six varieties, very fine, but not quite ripe; Belle Lucrative, Sheldon, and a small variety not known. Of peaches, Stump the World, small size, Crawford's Late, very good; and a very fine sample of a red-fleshed Cling, name not known. Of apples, Spitzenberg, Baldwin and Autumn Seedling. Very fair Isabella grapes. A seedling blackberry, just beginning to ripen, very productive; and a splendid wreath of Barberry, crowded with its scarlet fruit.

Mr. Graham has much the finest bunch of Catawba grapes, being about as large and fine as it is known to grow; also Isabellas not quite ripe.

Mr. Davis has very large samples of Mississippi Red (of Doge), and three varieties not in season.

Mr. Allen has six varieties of fall apples, and the finest sample of the Isabella grape on the table.

Dr. McPherson has eleven varieties of apple on exhibition, all in season; four of peach, and six of pear; and Norton, Diana and Taylor grapes.

Mr. J. S. Seymour has Diana, and by far the finest Concord on the table.

Mr. L. D. Votaw has Creveling, Logan, Hartford Prolific and Concord. A. W. McPherson, Ch.

The Flower Committee reported.

Several fine bouquets; that of Mrs. Beale No. 1; Mr. Essex No. 2; Mrs. Seymour No. 3; Miss Harris No. 4, and a fine collection of Coxcombs, in variety, by Mrs. H. Benguerel. Wm. Muir, Ch.

The vegetable Committee reported:

By Mrs. B. K. Woods, specimens of Lima Beans, and fine specimens of Bull Nose Peppers. By Mr. T. R. Allen, specimens of Nansemond sweet potato.

T. R. ALLEN, Ch.

The Secretary called attention to the grapes on the table. The Logan long gone and now as dry as raisins. The Creveling not so early as promised. The Hartford seems earlier than the Creveling. The Draught Amber, a fine grower, ripens its wood well, with nothing extra in it. The Concord irregular in ripening, and subject to rot, but in the case of Mr. Harris rather over-rated at last meeting. Diana fine, but from its color not a good market grape. Clinton, hardy, much subject to rot this season. Delaware, above all in quality, had no disease, grew most magnificently this season, no shedding of the leaves.—Norton, all that can be wished for—healthy, hardy wine grape. Northern Muscadine, remarkable only for its luxuriant growth and the size of its berries, measuring nine-tenths of an inch in diameter. Taylor, great grower, hardy, healthy, but small berry and imperfect bunch, from imperfect fertilization. Isabella, less rot than many others, and Catawba very slow in ripening, retaining much pulpiness in their texture.

Meeting adjourned for dinner.

Dr. McPherson: Fine specimens of Bartlett pears on pear stock, and upon quince, the quince much the largest. The Bartlett seems to be the pear of this country. Fondante de Malines, a fine pear, bears well, very sweet. Seckel, very large, bore well.

Plums, by Mr. Potterfield, fine, perfect, healthy.

Peaches—Crawford's Late has the best character of any in the East, and sustains it here. Stump the World, new, of fine size and quality. Columbia, not ripe, large, and of good quality.

Apples—Twenty Ounce, a late fall apple, this grew in the nursery row, is large, of fine appearance and good quality. Secretary noticed Hawley, a fine, large apple of excellent quality. St. Lawrence, good and beautiful, and generally much larger than this. Keswick Codlin, the best jelly apple, now in good condition for eating. Mississippi Red, large, fine, good bearer, fine for drying. Judge Tippet has trees of this variety, and can give an opinion.

Judge Tippet: Have this apple: don't know under what name I got it; fine, healthy tree, good, regular bearer, good drying and cooking apple.

Secretary called attention to Aunt Susan's Favorite, an apple that has commanded much attention in Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, a seedling of the county and one which should be exhibited and placed upon the records of the Society.

Mr. Philip L. Tippet promised it would be forthcoming at the Fair.

Secretary called attention to a mistake that had been committed in naming in the list of fruit the McKinley instead of the Bowles.

It was, on motion, Resolved, that the Secretary trace the history of the apple and report.

Mr. Allen called attention to the Fall Pippin, a fine, large apple, which was increasing in favor here, and to the Pennsylvania Red Streak, which he thought one of the best.

Mr. Lewis stated that the Bowles apple, mistaken for the McKinley, originated 60 years ago.

The President announced that the next meeting would be held at the house of Mr. Wm. Harris, Allenton, on the first Thursday of October, at 10 A. M.

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

Wm. Muir, Sec.

INARCHING MAGNOLIAS.—We all know what splendid specimens the finer sorts of Magnolia make when worked on the cucumber tree (*M. acuminata*), but unfortunately there is considerable difficulty in making the buds take even when treated with the greatest care. It often happens that the buds look plump and fair. You are sure that all is right and wait with patience to see them burst in spring. The stock puts forth its leaves—what can be wrong with the buds? You examine and find every one dead and dry. This has been the usual experience with few exceptions. I shall recommend a different method. Cut in the latter part of June, soft green scions of the kinds you want to propagate and inarch, making the junction at least two and a half inches in length. Let the lower end of the scion be placed in a phial of water, which should be secured firmly to the stock, so that it cannot move. Keep the phial always full of water. In four or five weeks remove the tying from the junction, and cut back the stock so as to compel the buds of the scion to start. In some cases it would be better to leave the cutting back until the ensuing spring. I have tried this method, and find it proves very successful.—[*Cor. Ohio Farmer.*]

Domestic Department.

LINIMENT FOR SPRAINS, SWELLINGS, &c.—Our esteemed friend, Dennis Lackland, Esq., has handed us the following recipe for a liniment, which he has used for sprains and swellings, and which he thinks is unsurpassed for the purpose:

Oil Organum 2 oz., spts. camphor 2 oz., spts. ammonia 2 oz., olive oil 2 oz., ether 2 oz., turpentine 1 oz., oil of spike 2 oz., alcohol $\frac{1}{2}$ pint. Put in a quart bottle.

HOW TO MAKE VINEGAR.—A. Young, of Nebraska City, wishes us to give some receipts for making vinegar. We give the following:

Whiskey Vinegar.—Take 5 gallons of soft, clean water, 2 quarts of whiskey, 2 quarts of molasses, and half a pint of good, fresh yeast. Lay a sheet of white paper at the bottom of the keg, and put in the mixture. Place it in the warm sun, and in six weeks it will be fit for use. If made in winter, it should be kept where there is a fire.

Cider Vinegar.—This may be made of poor cider, or that which is good, weakened a little with water. It should be partly drawn off, after the cider is well worked, leaving the casks about two-thirds full. A piece of wire gauze, or a linen cloth, let in a little, should be nailed over for a cover to keep out flies, and also for a strainer. When the vinegar is good, which will be sometimes in six months by frequent shaking, it may be increased by adding occasionally the juice of fruit, the rinsings of sweetmeat jars, cold tea, &c.

Sugar Vinegar.—To each gallon of water, add 2 lbs of brown sugar and a little yeast; expose it to the sun six months in a vessel slightly stoppered.

Honey Vinegar.—Mix 1 lb of honey with a gallon of cider, and expose it to the sun, or keep it where it is warm, and in a few months it will be so strong that water will be necessary to dilute it.

Perry Vinegar.—Put 30 or 40 lbs of wild pears in a tub, pour water over them, and leave them three days to ferment. Repeat this every day for a month, at the end of which it will be good vinegar.

ICE FOR DIPHTHERIA.—A correspondent of the Providence Journal vouches for the efficacy of ice as a cure for diphtheria, croup, and all ordinary inflammation of the throat. The manner of application is as follows:

"Break up a small lump of ice in a towel, and put the pieces in a bowl. Take position slightly inclined backwards, either in a chair or on a sofa. Proceed for half an hour with a teaspoon to feed yourself with small lumps of ice, letting them dissolve slowly in the back part of the mouth or the entrance of the throat. A single such application will often break up a common sore throat, which otherwise would have a course of two or three days. In case of a bad sore throat, use the ice frequently and freely. In case of ulceration or diphtheria, keep a small lump of ice constantly in the mouth."

BOILING POTATOES.—This is a formula: Let each mess be of equal size. Let the water boil before putting the potatoes in. When done, pour off the water and scatter three or four tablespoonfuls of salt, cover the pot with a coarse cloth, and return it to the fire for a short time. Watery potatoes are made measly by this process. How simple is the process, yet how few understand it!

REMEDY FOR SMALL POX.—The Surgeon-Major of the Royal Horse Guards writes to the London Times, that the root of the Pitcher plant is a specific for this disease. An ounce of the root is sliced, infused in a quart of water, allowed to simmer down to a pint, and given in two tablespoonful doses every four hours, while the patient is well nourished with beef tea and arrow-root.



WHOM SHOULD WE MARRY?

Ah, whom? It is the great question of life, for it determines, in a great measure, one's happiness. It is most difficult to give advice here; and yet the truth ought, with the world's experience of six thousand years before us, to be pretty well understood. The truth is, those who are bit, are careful not to show their wound, as this is a sort of a private affair; and the happy make it still more so, so that it is hard to enter within the veil, except through the door (of matrimony).

Yet we may see much; but this is often in your eye. The true state is not generally seen—though it is often (sometimes erroneously—sometimes correctly) inferred. We, i.e. the uninitiated, may be certain of one thing—that the married life has its joys and its sorrows, and is in this respect but a sample of life in general. We also know that some men are servitors to their wives, and some wives slaves to their husbands. The latter we fear is too often the case. The next step higher—where a woman makes a hero of her husband, looks up to him, trusts in him—is better. Such a woman may be, nay is, happy. It seems to be the natural condition for a woman to look up, as it is for a man to protect. He is the strong one, and was designed for this. So in all nature. The man should provide. The moment he abuses his power, he becomes the brute, the tyrant—and of all tyrants, the wedded tyrant is the worst. Still it is remarkable how much some women will endure.

But, whom should we marry? Certainly him or her with whom the most happiness can be enjoyed, and the least sorrow. But how are we to particularize? The thing is multifarious and difficult; and there is so much in the characters of men and women that is not revealed; so that the adage comes true, that marriage is a lottery. A plain blank can, or ought to be, readily discerned: a prize also. But the range between! and that is the great

majority. Here we have generally to select. So that it will be seen that we are to take up with imperfect selections. Human nature is imperfect. In this sense, then, marriage to a certain extent is an evil; a thing to be endured, an infliction. Perfection is not to be expected; and yet we are constantly seeking for perfect men and women. We are, therefore, very apt to be disappointed; or, as Emerson says:

"The gay enchantment is undone—

"A gentle wife—but fairy none."

To marry for love merely, is suicidal, because done blindly. It is like raffling for your life, with the chances against you. The world is full of this kind of misery; and equally full of its opposite, "marrying for money" or from policy. This cuts off domestic happiness; a thing, it is true, that some men value but little: but these are hardened; they have little feeling of the better kind; little of poetry; little enjoyment. They are men of the world merely. Let these marry so, only let them have mates of equal intentions.

But there is an emotional class, men and women who feel and fancy. These must have food after their kind; they cannot do with husks; they must have the kernel of enjoyment. To these domestic comfort is a necessity: not display. Communion, enjoyment, are words of meaning with them. Their children are a household comfort, not to be bartered for the world's position, but to be made happy, and make their parents happy in return, a solace in their old age. These are jewels; not such as Mrs. Lofly wears (trinkets).

Now, for these classes to intermarry, would be another suicide. Hence we should not follow models in marriage. We must consult our own case, and then find a suitable companion, having in view the world's experience. Our own wants are to be satisfied; not the wants of another. No outside influence should be permitted in the least to affect us; we have to marry for ourselves; the living is to be done by us, and in the most intimate and varied manner, showing the importance (to ourselves) of the subject. And yet how many matches are made—not by the parties concerned—but by match-makers and other outside influences. So are serious matters trifled with.

Whom, then, shall we marry? It is a question asked a million times each day, each hour—constantly asked. We ask it as we do our daily bread; as continuously; and certainly it is one of the great wants of life. It is fit then to note this question on paper, as we have undertaken to do.

We should not marry an uncongenial person. What breach there is will be apt to be widened instead of lessened. Bad qualities are not apt to vanish upon marriage. They are apt to come out of their hiding places; and we find ourselves shocked—our disappointment has begun. The honey-moon, like the fancies before marriage, is soon over. Contact has a wonderful effect in bursting such bubbles. Something more than a reliance upon fancy, novelty, anticipation, is wanted. There must be sense used: not all love. Depend upon it, it is a blind, though pleasant instinct, and will mislead. It truly hideth a multitude of sins. The beloved object has no faults—when she is full of the infirmities flesh is heir to. For she is, after all, but the common mortal that others see her—others not interested like you.

All love, then, is a bad object to marry for. It is the siren danger; all examples prove it. There are probably no exceptions.

What then shall we marry for? You are leaving us in the dark.

It is because the subject is dark, uncertain. Besides, our advice is pretty certain not to be taken. Man, in these matters, is very selfish. If he is lazy and short of means he is apt to "better his condition," in which case the woman is sure to be the sufferer. The contract is a mere commercial bargain: nothing else. This, of course, is not marriage: only a miserable form of it.

Then there are hasty marriages, which, under the varying circumstances that produce them; are, wisely, never indulged in by prudent men. Long acquaintance, on the other hand, is a favorable means of forming a judgment. It is a sort of beginning in advance the matrimonial journey. It gives insight into character and *habit* of acquaintance. Such marriages have less disappointments; seldom great disappointments. It is a sort of natural gliding into matrimony.

Affection cannot be wanting in *successful* marriages; neither congeniality. There may be contrasts; but these may be innocent. A brunette should not find fault with a blonde; the tall with the short; black with blue eyes; a mild with an active temper, &c. There must be forbearance; there will be where affection and judgment are present.

It is a good deal with married life, as with other life, as we have said. There are inducements to fret, which must be overcome. Those around us must be treated with respect. We must forgive, and expect to be forgiven. So in

the nearer relations of wedded life. Marriage does not change a man; it only introduces him into a different sphere, with all the old ties and associations around him—save, he has to stop his flirting; bright eyes are no more for him; only the one he has chosen. He has made his fortune; and he must make up his mind to abide by it; which introduces us to the danger of matrimony—jealousy. This is the bane of married life; it is found everywhere, that is, in every community, in every neighborhood. Few families are safe from it. It is hence enjoined in the nuptial bond that the parties are to cleave to each other—"forsaking all others." Here the greatest guard is required. We must avoid giving offence, and try to avoid taking offence. Mutual forbearance—mutual is the word, now that the union is formed.

But love; will you exclude that? So far from it, that without it there can be no true marriage; only it should not be made the all, nor the main thing. It should be there as a band to unite; to be the delight of each other's society; to cause to practice (willingly) forbearance; to reflect its light over all that relates to matrimony—its trials and its joys. Love is the sun of wedded life. But the blind passion usually denominated love, reckless of consequences, intent only on the possession of its object: this must be avoided: this is a fever, a morbid state of the mind, not a reasonable attachment; that attachment which sees faults as well as estimates attractions. There must be esteem, appreciation of good qualities, or love is of no consequence. The man to marry, must be reasonable as well as passionate. But should he depend much upon passion; or, to use a milder term, attachment? Yes, if it does not blind him; if he has strength enough to see what person he is too marry. But this feeling is dangerous: very. To marry where there is no love to illumine your home, is equally dangerous. In such a case the bond of union is gone; the man—the woman—is never married: and the worst is, all other marriage is cut off by this arrangement: union, we cannot call it.

Affection, esteem, congeniality, then, are among the great requisites. These, with poverty, to some, are better than if riches accompanied. The small savings are in themselves a delight, to some. Money is often a bane. Not however where the qualities above enumerated are present. Little will mar where these exist. These are the controlling influences, not only in the married but social world generally.

Affection is happiness, esteem, judgment, congeniality, preparation and continuation.—We should then marry whom we love, esteem, and find congenial. But, if one or more of these qualities are missing (which is in the majority of cases—so unfortunate, we fear, is life,) what then? Which shall we exclude? The interested reader will hardly deprive himself of the first. Neither does he wish to lose the last. So esteem must go (the main thing), for with it goes the judgment, and the person bereft of that is—let the interested reader say what. Never, in any case, lose sight of esteem. Let money go first; let position go; attachment even (providing always there is no aversion); and let there be some differences, rather than the loss of esteem; for whom we esteem not, we cannot truly, sanely love.

A rational man, alone, is fit to decide upon marriage; a man who has control of his impulses; who has judgment, and is in the habit of exercising it. The great majority of mankind are not fit to determine the question of marriage: hence, the unfortunate consequences which we so often meet with. Affection, agreement, and mutual good qualities, are always a safe investment, not only in matrimony, but in life generally. A man is still a man; a woman still a woman, after marriage. This does not change either. On the other hand, wedded life, when really begun, after the courting days are over, is but a continuation of the same human nature, with all its faults and excellencies, that it was before. We repeat, the parties are not changed, only the sphere—and that is in the same common atmosphere of the world: so that after all, life is about what it was before marriage. Still there are exceptions. We find them in every community. Where there is a superior influence of one of the parties, it is generally found to exert itself, and often is lasting. If there is a decided disappointment, this is also found to be lasting.

We must therefore calculate we are in the same life, with risks of great changes, growing out of the qualities of the humanity we have associated with us. We shall find the same frettings, the same smiles and frowns, after as before marriage; and each one has his adored—be it one, or more—in contemplation. Whom then shall we marry?

Poetry is the flower of literature; prose is the corn, potatoes, and meat; satire is the aquafortis; wit is the spice and pepper; love-letters are the honey and sugar; and letters containing remittances are the apple dumplings.

[Written for the Valley Farmer.]

DIETETICS.

BY DR. J. B. COLESGROVE.

I doubt if any subject in morals or physics has been so lengthily written upon or so fully discussed, the intelligent world over, publicly and privately, as that which stands at the head of this article. The philosopher, the economist, the doctor of divinity, and the doctor of medicine, have each, in their turn, discoursed about it, suggesting conditions and practices which most might conduce to the health and comfort of mankind, and to the amelioration of bodily infirmities. It is a subject upon which ancient writers treated, especially in connection with curative measures recommended to be adopted in the treatment of disease; and in later years books have been written and various extreme doctrines inculcated by their votaries, each claiming precedence over all others.

The rule which so properly applies to most subjects, is peculiarly applicable in regard to this; namely, *avoid extremes*. I do not conceive that much good has ever come from the adoption of any plan of diet which rejected a liberal variety of meats and vegetables; and this is undoubtedly the opinion of the most intelligent writers and the most learned physicians of our day.

Webster defines it, "that part of medicine which relates to diet or food;" and this I think the best definition of the word, yet it may be profitably considered to what extent it suggests preventive measures and qualities, as well as *curative* in connection with disease.

Briefly we will consider the subject in these two aspects; and the reader will bear in mind that, in both instances, our physical bodies are made subject to certain laws, which our beneficent Creator has fixed for them, with which our nature demands a rigid compliance as the only condition upon which life, health and happiness may be maintained.

These regulations are universal.

To what extent they are observed by the human family; to what extent disregarded and violated and put to defiance, may be properly judged of by studying the character and condition of man. Whilst nature on the one hand demands loudly that a strict compliance be yielded to these laws—the appetites and tastes of man, his love of self-gratification, and his hatred of all restraint on the other hand, lead him into paths of vice and away from the goal of his happiness.

Oh, how constantly is nature insulted! how incessantly are her laws violated! Our bodies

demand sustenance. And sufficient food from time to time to sustain life and to enable man to perform its laborious duties, is simply what and all that is required. But as the gratification of appetite is pleasurable; as the slaking of thirst is attended by agreeable sensations; so men are not contented with eating and drinking just enough to supply their wants, but fall into habits of gluttony, and for the sake of the happiness which is produced by the mere act, they eat and drink until it is no longer tolerable, and nature comes to abhor that which she requires for her own use. Thus men do not eat merely and only to appease the appetite, or to dissipate the inevitable cravings for food, but, by a well considered system, they study to ascertain how and to what extent they can make the gratification of appetite pleasurable. And thus the appetite is not allowed to be satiated with one or two kinds of food, nor with the more wholesome or ordinary variety of diet, but nature is forced to submit to an extraordinary routine—from corn bread and bacon to the 'nicest luxury known to the culinary art.'—This system of gluttony has become universal. I believe that three-fourths of the people of this land of ours are addicted to this criminal habit. We all eat *too much* and *too fast*. The stomach is loaded until men feel that any further continuance will be certain to be attended with the most disastrous consequences.

Now, what are the effects of this habit? what upon individuals? what upon nations? Can it be denied that it is one of the most fruitful of all sources of disease? Surely it is unnecessary for me to attempt to show how it becomes thus, or to explain the natural processes of digestion. If a weight of two hundred pounds were lashed to a man's shoulder, and he compelled to carry it about with him—*always, unremittingly*—can we suppose that he would not become deformed? What then must be the effects upon the human system when the digestive apparatus is required, day after day, to dispose of twice or thrice the amount of food required for the natural wants of the system? The conclusion is inevitable. The whole system is greatly weakened—demoralized; the operation of digestion is wholly changed and prostituted, and nature performs her duties at every conceivable disadvantage. The natural fluids of the body become vitiated and corrupted; the blood itself impure; and in fact there follows an illimitable train of evils. Hence, come rheumatism, gout, indigestion, headache, sore throat, neuralgia, lumbago, habitual nausea, liver complaint, heart disease,

coughs, colds, decayed teeth, eruptions and fevers, inflammations external and internal, opthalmia, and a host of complaints that I need not name; and not least of all, but most contemptible of all maladies, dyspepsia, a disease, every symptom of which is produceable by this most deleterious habit.

Dr. Dunglison enumerates the following as among the symptoms—loss of appetite, nausea, pain in the epigastrium or hypochondrium, heartburn, sense of fullness or weight in the stomach, acrid or fetid eructations, a sense of fluttering or sinking in the pit of the stomach. To these may be added a long and distressing list, with which the miserable dyspeptic is familiar. As this malady, in the language of Dr. Dunglison, "is wholly dependent upon irregularity of living in the quantity or quality of food taken: the most successful treatment is to put the patient upon a diet of easy digestion."

I apprehend that it would not be a difficult task to show how all the other complaints I have mentioned, are produced by excessive eating; and the terrible effects of systematic gourmandizing are apparent in broken-down constitutions, as well as in the poignant suffering of acute disease. "Feed a cold, and starve a fever," is an unwise and foolish adage. The remarkable strictures which intelligent physicians place on their patients with regard to diet, in the treatment of all diseases, affords ample evidence of the importance which they attach to irregularities of diet, both as a cause of disease and as curative measure.

[Conclusion next month.]

MY MARY ASLEEP.—Not by the "murmuring stream;" but in bed, when she should be up and doing. We know this sounds harsh; but it's not said for a lack of sympathy with womankind; far from it. But the man who has to do the heavy labor, and really does it, should have his way smoothed as much as possible, which no true woman will gainsay.

In the morning, when his yet weary limbs are stretched on his couch; to see his better half busy with preparation for the savory meal (always savory to a laboring man), this will please and stimulate, and the meal will be a cheerful one, and set the man on his journey of labor with a light heart, and a desire at night to return again to cheerfulness. But if he has to lift his weary limbs and start his own meal and that of his wife and children, all of which must be done very early, he will go, already fatigued, to his labor, and return with a consciousness of similar things in the evening.

LETTERS FROM LIFE.

At Home, Aug. 10, 1863.

DEAR C.—If this is not enjoyment—being in the sanctum just now—then there is none. My tea-table has just been cleared (I had my first ripe tomato for the season); and here the afternoon sun is filling the room with its light, subdued by the awning (I am in the second story). Such a clean, white light was never in. There is not a breath of air stirring; you can hear everything. The sky, which has not a cloud on it, would be blue at almost any other time; but now it is one field of light—it must be through some invisible vapor. The trees are clean, and their leaves all glossy, they were so thoroughly washed yesterday by one of those sudden storms which start up in the tropics—for a tropic we have here. It gathered above our head—not moved there. I noticed the scene as I lay on the lounge, overcome by the heat. The clouds visibly thickened in the clear sky; and before I could reflect upon it, the rain came—then thrown off the roof by the wind; then suddenly rushed on again with large drops; then came down in torrents, which, in a minute, overwhelmed us. Loud roared the wind; now wheeled the other way, throwing at one dash torrents of water into the east window—which of course was raised to its utmost. Stairway and floor were one splash. Hail rattled; somebody screamed; and there was confusion enough. I had forgotten all about the lounge and the heat. There were sheets of dense rain, like platoons, whirling through the streets, and bending shrubs and trees—and it stopped. The drench was so perfect, that all—the road, field, garden—all was a sea, for a minute. The earth, so faithful to her vegetation, seemed drowned. But the ground began to show in its highest places, as in the Deluge, and soon—trouble began in another direction—the gutter came rushing, tearing down. It wound around the house, went into the cellar; and in a few minutes all was over.

Everything breathed easier; eyes opened with wonder. The sun came out to smile at—something, probably the men who were wonder-struck, as well as to see what he could do—for all this was his work.

One mile on either hand there had not been a drop of rain. From the hills they could see the storm billowing and raging.

And now the sun is compensating for the fright, by putting the placidest light into the sanctum. Besides, the sanctum is renovated (I but just cleaned house), which makes it still

brighter. That is my part: the sun and I are working together.

But this reminds me of something else—of another fair thing that ought to be in the sanctum. A flower vase is standing on the table—or, rather, a white cup containing about twenty different kinds of flowers, among which the scent of the mignonette is perceptible, also the delicate heliotrope. It was the gift of one of the fair ones, the "fawn-eyed." But it cannot be entertained—the thought: although there is delicacy in it. For a fairer ever rises upon the orbit of vision. This one is always fair—it is truly fair—for others testify to the same, and competition confirms it.

A fair hand to put things to right in the sanctum, with those eyes to preside over—

"I swear by leaf, and wind, and rain,
Did never creature pass
So slightly, musically made,
So light upon the grass,"—

Or carpet either. Youth, beauty, brightness—these are there, and, with goodness, they shine out of those eyes. There never were better—that you have acknowledged. Her gait is the same, that is it agrees exactly with all these qualities—not active, though her eye is sparkling, but quiet, *gliding*, as if she would disturb nothing in the world—and she does not, save a multitude of hearts. But they flutter only awhile, and then disappear.

And this is most flattering. Say not flattery is not sweet. This is the more so because it is unconscious on her part. I am ever seeing her walk the sanctum in her quiet, gliding way, looking to the things that pertain.

There is a flower in the vase, a plain little pink presented by her. It is only a pink, a single one. And so is she, a plain, single flower. If ever the sense of a flower was associated with anything, it is associated with her: A blooming face; bright eyes; youth; sweetness of disposition. Yet now and then there is a sprightliness in the too clear eyes, that is almost mischievous. I have often been grieved by it, for it extends to her disposition, or seems to—and yet there is such a persuasive gentleness, that all is instantly forgotten. I have mused much upon this. I often say it is a pettish mood, or start rather, for it is a mere point—over as soon as made, and sometimes followed by regret, always I think, and once or twice acknowledged—the last time with considerable trepidation—and yet, though awkward, it was a most graceful act. She had really offended me, and it was done in public; but her trembling heart could not permit her

to make the acknowledgment then — besides, she was a little huffed at me (without cause), she is so sensitive.

She is but a child—a girl of seventeen or eighteen, possibly but sixteen—I care little which. I never call her child, though I always think it. But this thought often sends a thrill of terror through me. Will it do to marry a child—a man of my age, old enough to be excluded (were I married) from the first class of the conscription? The thought is often a painful one. But am I discussing not only the possibility, but probability of a union!

Next Morning.—When I awoke this morning, the sun was looking into the sanctum (for it is there where I sleep), as it always does mornings (in fair weather), with a different beam from the afternoon light. But all the phases of this luminary (even the eclipse) are pleasant.

The sanctum yesterday afternoon was the perfection of enjoyment, overlooking as it does from its elevation, the world and its noisy doings. The enjoyment was quiet, as all true enjoyment is.

The light now comes in another direction; and it is still pleasant—newly pleasant—though as old as the hills. We deem it new; and here is the secret of beauty. It is in us, the proper place for it, and not in the things that surround us. Think of beauty in the one you love! (and I pity the man who does not think it, who sees it only on the outside). You see whither I am drifting. Adieu, BEEBEE.

P. S.—My aunt came in yesterday, and brought me my spread, which she had been washing and ironing. She came in the midst of the splendor of the afternoon. There was a few holes in it (the spread—not the afternoon), which I would not permit her to mend. I wanted a clean thing, and smoothed by the iron, with the ridges by doubling in it. Before that the table looked sadly naked; however, it lasted but a few hours, so prompt is the industry of my aunt.

I now and then take tea with her (she lives at the lower end of the village); and I once in a while get her, though with the greatest difficulty, to sit down to my table. I always select such an afternoon as yesterday. Though rather illiterate, she appreciates it: it wins her. She also prizes my tea.

On the whole, aunt and I, bachelor and childless widow of sixty, are getting along well together, that is when we meet. She says she has me "in her eye" if anything should happen,

And she truly is considerate, and does much good in the world. But I must leave the blooming face and the pale face (my aunt's), and bid you a second adieu. BB.

We are under renewed obligations to our fair contributor, "Country Girl," for the following beautiful stanzas:

TO BE SEEN OF MEN.

Could we look into our actions,
As the holy angels can—
Many would we find were prompted
Only to be seen of man.

For the heart is so deceitful,
That unless we watch alway,
We will often find our footsteps,
Following it, have gone astray.

We have read what Jesus tells us
Of the Pharisees of old—
And in even lisping childhood,
Scorned them when the tale was told.

Yet, how often, while we blame them,
We are like the Pharisee—
Oh, let us, who follow Jesus,
Make our words and works agree.

Oh, that all would banish from them,
Human Nature's pomp and pride,
And wherever God may place them,
Brother toil by brother's side.

So may we, who love the Saviour,
Make our words and works agree,
And escape the awful sentence,
Wo, unto the Pharisee!

LONGFELLOW.

There was a time when Bryant and Longfellow were our leading poets. They still lead the American muse. So much for the practice of poetry. But the two poets are different. Bryant is the poet of sentiment and earnestness—in the utterance of these he is eloquent. This is his quality. On the other hand, Longfellow exhibits motion. He is the most active poet of his day; with a straightforward course, bent only on the attainment of his object. He cannot stop to dally, or to mourn, or to eulogize. He has no time even for eloquence; but goes straight to his work with the tread of a man in earnest. Yet he has not the earnestness of Bryant: no man has. It becomes almost a pain with this poet.

Longfellow is historic. The genius of history follows his muse. We see this in his Belfry of Bruges, Neuremburg, and indeed in most of his poems. Learned subjects are his delight; and they are what simple themes are to others—the familiar matter of his mind.

From out the rich fund of these materials, his poetry is formed. So from the study of nature Bryant gathers his inspiration. Longfellow seems never to deign to this; or he has not time; or is too busy. He never stoops to fondle a flower; but rushes forth with the breeze, keeping pace with armored men, or walking among the constellations. He is seldom found in a quiet nook. But now and then he is; and he quotes us the best Sabbath perhaps ever written in verse; a quiet country scene, wholly unusual with this poet. We quote the poem:

A GLEAM OF SUNSHINE.

This is the place. Stand still my steed,
Let me review the scene,
And summon from the shadowy past
The forms that once have been.

The Past and Present re-unite
Beneath Time's flowing tide,
Like footprints hidden by a brook,
Yet seen on either side.

Here runs the highway to the town,
There the green lane descends,
Through which I walked to church with thee,
Oh! gentlest of my friends!

The shadow of the linden trees,
Lay moving on the grass;
Between them and the moving boughs
A shadow, thou didst pass.

Thy dress was like the lilies,
And thy heart as pure as they;
One of God's holy angels
Did walk with me that day.

I saw the branches of the trees
Bend down thy touch to meet;
The clover blossoms in the grass
Rise up to kiss thy feet.

"Sleep, sleep to-day, tormenting cares,
Of earth and folly born!"
Solemnly sang the village choir
On that sweet Sabbath morn.

Through the closed blinds the golden sun
Poured in a dusty beam,
Like the celestial ladder
Of the ancient patriarch's dream.

And ever and anon, the wind,
Sweet-scented with the hay,
Turned o'er the hymn-book's fluttering leaves,
That on the window lay.

Long was the good man's sermon,
But it seemed not so to me,
For he spoke of Ruth, the beautiful,
And still I thought of thee.

Long was the prayer he uttered,
But it seemed not so to me,
For in my heart I prayed with him,
But still I thought of thee.

This gives the picture. We have omitted the last three stanzas, which belong not to it, but are tacked on to finish it; a trick of the old school of our poets.

Of all the poets, Longfellow is most charged with plagiarism; not so much latterly as form-

erly—as success (which this poet has abundantly) is a criterion which critics cannot withstand. Justice is being done to Longfellow in this respect. We might easily quote almost the phraseology of other poets in the muse of Longfellow. For instance, in the poem just quoted, we have this stanza:

I saw the branches of the trees
Bend down, thy touch to meet;
The clover blossoms in the grass
Rise up to kiss thy feet.

In Tennyson's *Talking Oak*, occurs this stanza:

But light as any wind that blows,
So fleetly did she stir;
The flower she touched on, dipt and rose,
And turned to look at her.

We are not certain, however, that the youngest bard (Tennyson) did not see the American poem first. But no one charges the Laureate with plagiarism.

We have quoted from Longfellow, but not in his vein (the historic), which comprises his longest poems. His *Rain in Summer* is generally known, and is a picture of that phenomenon. His *Arsenal at Springfield*, is a grand march, calling the nations to battle. A quiet little piece, entitled *Endymion*, has these stanzas:

Like Dian's kiss, unasked, unsought,
Love gives itself, but is not bought;
Nor voice, nor sound betrays
Its deep, impassioned gaze.

It comes—the beautiful, the free,
The crown of all humanity—
In silence and alone
To seek the elected one.

Oh weary hearts! oh slumbering eyes!
Oh drooping souls, whose destinies
Are fraught with fear and pain,
Ye shall be loved again!

No one is so accused by fate,
No one so utterly desolate,
But some heart, though unknown,
Responds unto his own—

Responds, as if with unseen wings
A breath from heaven had touched its strings,
And whispers in its song—
"Where hast thou staid so long?"

Sin, the sweet morsel, sours on the mind.

A happy thing is remembered with pleasure;
so is the thing it is connected with: hence, our attachments.

You can tell a happy heart by the reflection on the face; an evil, by the scowl. Both are set by habit.

Gentleness has often more power than strength has.

Be sure to marry a man who will lift you up—in other words love you above all earthly things—one who is disinterested and unselfish.

[Written for the Valley Farmer.]

SCRAPS.

The greatest happiness is that which grows out of our circumstances: out of our own intimate nature. Foreign happiness is a fabulous plant. Hence, home enjoyment, domestic happiness, is ofteneast met with.

That birds are not proud of their plumage, ought to be a lesson to intelligent (?) beings. If not, they had better become irrational birds.

"For every anare a sweet," as the youth said when he yielded to temptation. He afterward repented, and quoted correctly.

It is said our continued heavy rains are owing to the many battles fought at the time. We suggest that artillery corps be instituted over the country to fire salutes in time of drouth. That would be an improved use of artillery; the carrying out of the millennial idea.

The sharpest things are the most diminutive. Take courage, little men.

Consistent—to call a man-of-war a she.

The stomach is too often the head.

Rare—wit, when the thermometer is at ninety. *Silliness*—to attempt to write it then.

In some of the oriental cities the streets are so narrow, that lovers kiss each other from the opposite windows, which must mean a union of block-heads.

She was so industrious, she looked like a tired bee filled with the honey of content, as she sat in her seat on the eve of her wedding: the maid-of-all-work.

"Back and forth, back and forth," is the proaic song of the shuttle, singing the *Song of the Shirt*—yet no one gets better paid for singing.

I love to think, when I look at the rain while the sun shines, that the sun, which is also looking at it, is pleased as well as myself. To show his approbation, he sets his signet in the cloud. I show mine by looking at it.

The man who continued to practice amiability, was surprised one day to find he had become amiable.

Let your children run barefooted, and they will be big-footed when men.

Bachelors have one inducement the less to marry—the *habit* of being single.

The love of money when it becomes a passion will go with a man to his grave.

Draught of the Seine.

GHOSTS CAN MAKE RAIDS.—In Washington, the other day, a newsboy, in the absence of exciting news wherewith to stimulate purchasers, went through the streets crying out, "Nother raid by Stonewall Jackson!" An excited gentleman stopped him with, "I thought Jackson was dead!" "Well, so he is; but his ghost is makin' this 'ere raid."

"Do you mean to insinuate that I lie, sir?" exclaimed a fierce-looking mustached gentleman to a raw Yankee, who hinted some slight scepticism as to one of his toughest statements. "No, mister, not at all; only it kind o' strikes me you are tarnal savin' of the truth."

Mrs. Partington considers washer-women particularly silly to attempt to catch soft water when it rains hard.

What creatures have the greatest power to charm? Women and serpents.

Elihu Burritt says the best cough drops for young ladies, is to drop the practice of dressing thin when they go out in the night air.

The Count de Grasse being wounded in the knee by a musket ball, the surgeons made many incisions. Losing patience at last, he asked them why they cut and carved so cruelly. "We seek for the ball," said they. "Why did you not speak before," said the Count. "I have it in my pocket."

A gallant soldier was once heard to say that his only measure of courage was this: Upon the first fire, I immediately look upon myself as a dead man; I then fight the remainder of the day as regardless of danger as a dead man should be. All my limbs which I carry out of the field, I regard as so much gained, or as so much saved out of the fire."

A lady from the city who was visiting in the country with her little daughter, attended church where the child was quiet and attentive, until the minister commenced giving out the hymn, commencing with the verse—

"Behold, a stranger at the door;
He gently knocks, has knocked before;
Has waited long, is waiting still—
You treat no other friend so ill:"
at which the little girl, turning to her mother, said, "Ma, why don't he ring the bell?"

Physicians, as well as lawyers, are subject to some pretty hard rubs. "I expect," said a young physician, on his way to Jamaica, on hearing exaggerated rumors of the cholera, "to witness a great many death-bed scenes this summer." "Doubtless," replied a friend, "if you get much practice."

Always remember, the sweetest tie when broken, bleeds the most. Be careful how you form these ties, as they are also most easily broken. Life is jealous of happiness.



Editor's Table.

Only Seventy-Five Cents.

We will send the VALLEY FARMER from the first of May to the end of the year—eight months—together with our Premium Essay on the Culture and Manufacture of Sorghum, for only seventy-five cents.

As an inducement to our old subscribers to put forth some exertions to procure new subscribers, we will send to those who forward us one name and seventy-five cents, the Report of the Missouri State Horticultural Society, recently published. This Report is valuable to every Western fruit grower, and can be obtained so easily by this offer, that we hope to see it widely disseminated.

A BAKER'S DOZEN.

For ONE DOLLAR, we will send the Valley Farmer from the present time to January, 1865.

The long evenings are at hand, and farmers should begin to lay in a supply of reading matter. Can they read anything that will be more valuable to them than the VALLEY FARMER. Intelligence is a valuable capital to the farmer, and he cannot obtain too much of this capital.

Reader, can you not induce the Young Farmers of your neighborhood to subscribe for this journal.—If they wish to become respected, intelligent farmers, they can only do so by informing the mind. And there is no knowledge more valuable to them than that bearing upon their profession. Now is the time to subscribe. Let one and all feel an interest in their neighbors, and induce them to become readers.

Belleville (Ill.) Fair.

The St. Clair County Agricultural Society held its annual fair at the thriving city of Belleville, commencing Sept. 16th and continuing four days. We were able to be present on the first day. The show of Short Horn cattle was better than usual. We did not learn the names of all the exhibitors. Our old friend, Samuel Winn, as usual was on hand with some fine cattle of this breed. The show of sheep was poor. St. Clair is not much of a sheep county. We presume it abounds in our dogs to such an extent that it is not healthy for sheep. The show of hogs was fine—we have never seen finer Berkshire hogs and pigs than were here exhibited. Of course our friend Conrad Bornman is on hand in this department not only with his pure bred Berkshires, but with as fine a pair of Chester White Pigs, about five months old, as we ever saw. Those who wish to see pure Chester White Pigs, can see them in his pen. It is hard to say which is the better breed—the recently imported Berkshires that Mr. Bornman has, or the Chester White—we like the Chester White the best.

But it is in the Horse department that this exhibition particularly excels. We have never seen so great an improvement as is visible in this department, since we first commenced visiting these Fairs. Five or

six years ago, when we first attended, the Horse department was the poorest feature of the exhibition.—The horses were poor common stock without style or speed. A magician could hardly have worked a greater transformation. A few enterprising citizens clubbed together, bought the splendid Black Hawk stallion "Addison," at a cost, we believe, of \$6,500.—He is a horse of splendid style, great speed, good size, well muscled, and is one of the best foal getters we know of. His colts are all superior. He stamps his character upon them all. Those who bought him, deserve to have their names engraved upon a marble monument as public benefactors. Addison has been worth to St. Clair county more than a hundred thousand dollars, and every year the improvement will widen and extend. Very many of his colts were on exhibition, and they did no discredit to their worthy sires.

HARDWARE STORE.—We direct attention to the advertisement of Wm. Baxter. We have dealt with him for several years, and find him an obliging, honorable business man. Any one wanting any kind of hardware, can procure it of him at 162 Market Street, of as good quality and at as low rates as anywhere in St. Louis. Those building, should give him a call.

FAIR AT ALLENTON.—We were present at the Exhibition at Allenton. Notwithstanding a heavy rain in the morning, the Fair was largely attended by both sexes. The ladies were out in large numbers—contributed much to the exhibition, and by their beauty and smiles added greatly to the interest of the occasion. They prepared a sumptuous repast for all present. It was a real, live, social reunion of horticultural friends. Why can't we have more such societies as the Meramec Horticultural? Every neighborhood should have one, and can have one. They will do more to foster enterprise, improvement, intelligence, and social good feeling, than anything we know of.

The show of the various fruits and vegetables was large. Dr. Beale the worthy President, and Dr. McPherson who labored arduously in preparing for the exhibition, and other horticultural friends there, deserve the thanks of all in attendance for their unceasing efforts to render the occasion a pleasant one. Secretary Muir was on hand as usual, doing all in his power to render the exhibition one of interest and profit to all.

MACOUIN Co. (ILLS.) FAIR.—We have returned from this fair, held at Carlinville, just as our paper is going to press. We have space but for a brief notice. On the day we were present—the third of the fair—the attendance was large. The exhibition in the horse department was excellent. We have never seen a greater number of promising young horses. In other departments, there was not as much on exhibition as we should like to have seen. Perhaps we should except the Fruit department. Our friends, Jas. A. Pettigill of Bunker Hill, and Jonathan Hugins of Woodburn, made an excellent display of fruit. They had a large number of varieties of apples, pears, peaches and grapes, on the table. Next year, we

hope to see a greater number of articles in the various departments.

There was a profusion of agricultural addresses. On Thursday, at 1 o'clock, we delivered an address on the grounds. In the evening, at seven o'clock, Chas. D. Bragdon, Esq., the talented Western Editor of the Rural New Yorker, delivered an address at the Court House; and on Friday, Hon. M. L. Dunlap, Editor of the Illinois Farmer, addressed the large crowd on the Fair Ground. Altogether, the fair was one of much interest.

JAMISON & MANTE.—We call attention to the card of these gentlemen to be found in the present number. They are energetic, honest, honorable men. Any business intrusted to them in their line, will receive prompt attention.

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[oct31]

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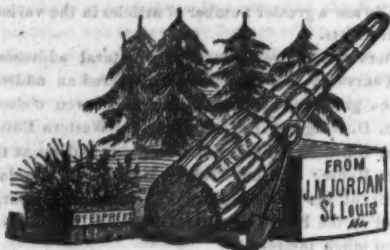
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